# 

Thursday, April 21, 1983



Computer Systems

# Big German user suspends Fujitsu

suspend their use until summer. Gerniany's largest bitreati, Datev, despite declaring the Fujitsu OS-/IV operating system more reliable than the IBM MVS, will not bring its Fujitsu mainfrantes book online

According to Datev executives the company encountered prob-lems with data stream control wheo it introduced the first of the new IBM 3380 discs into its huge nstallation last September.

Datev is one of the largest independent real time bureaux in the world, running a central main-frame configuration of two IBM 3081K machines and two Fujitsu 380 uniprocessors alongside each

will soon be joined by Europe'a first dust processor, Facom 382, sre supplied by Siemens and the installation normally runs the Fu-

frame products to the mar-

The machines, announced re-

cently in Tokyo, and intended to complete Hitachi's line-up against IBM's top end machines in the 3081 range, will be launehed in Europe by Olivettl shortly, and were included in BASF's line-up at Hangyer Balt.

National Advanced Systems, which is US-based and the largest

seller of Hitachi systems, will in-troduce the machines either later

this month or early next month according to Bob Howells, NAS

Howells said the only reason for the delay in the NAS introduction

was that it did not release systems

until it could ship and support

1BM's basic offering in the 308X

series is a liquid cooled diadic (dual) processor called the 3081, with letters K,D and G and a mips

Ianover Pair.

Hitachi three to

launch new range

by Kevin Cahill memory to 256K, compared with THREE of the world's largest com-

puter vendors, including two top European companies will shortly introduce Hitachi's new main-5 to 7 mips).

rating of 4 to 6.

The Hitachl M280 range now offers an improved 280H to compete directly with the 308IK. The M280 H has expanded buffer

All the new machines use 530 gate logic arrays and incorporate memory chips of 64K capacity with delay times of .45 nanosepete directly with the 308IK. The conds.

Hitachl has not bothered to offer

pool of 170 gigabytes which is continuously online and which is based on 48 IBM 3380s as well as 60 Sieniena 3550 discs.

Because of the size of the data pool and the need for real time access 24 hours a day by 15,000 of Datev's 25,000 terminals, Datev gradually developed a dual vendor policy which the company felt was essential if it was to be secure from any shortcomings which might de-velop as a result of relyiog on one

Datev's chief executive Heinz Sebiger, was Fujitsu, in the disguise of Siemens. Sebiger insisted that full dual vendor benefits would only accrue if the second vendor had its own operating system.

show true independence as well as

5 to 7 mips).
The M280D is a completely

revamped machine, although pitched against the slower IBM 308IG and with a maximum main

The IBM uniprocessor version of the 3081, designated the 3083,

introduced to plug a gap through which customers might want to do

competitive swap-outs, is matched by Hitachi with a completely revamped M260K which has maxi-

mum main memory of 32 Mbytes and a speed of around 2 mips.

To compete with the slower 3083 B and E processors Hitschi

has introduced an improved 260H and developed a new version of the

The main features of the new

additions are that all are field up-

gradeable, which means in practice that it takes an engineer just a few

hours to swap boards in the

All the new machines use 550

series called the 260D.

memory of 64 Mbytes.

The four machines access a doto technical director, Stephsa Unter-

In the event Pujitsu was able to

by Kevin Canill

THE higgest German user of Father parallel with the two 1BM self puzzled by IBM's reaction.

machines running MVS.

And Datev has hit the limelight with IBM for what appears to be an innocuous remark by Datev's

> Unterherg had ribbed an IBM expert who visited him fur not being familiar with the advantages of emitter coupled logie semiconduc-tor technology which all IBM's ri-vals use, and transistor to tran-

sistor logic which IBM uses.

The day after the article appeared Sebiger received an angry letter from IBM's managing director, and the newspaper received

threats of legal action.

Last week neither Sebiger nor
Unterberg could explain IBM's reaction other than in terms of IBM sensitivity to comments by an IBM customer, which is both Germany's largest bureaux and the



SEBIGER . . . Puzzled by IBM's reaction.

# Work starts on cabling standards

by John Kavanagb
THE government bas started work
on communications standards for
the proposed cabling of the UK —
a month before Home Secretary William Whitelaw is due to pre-sent the White Paper to the Com-

The Department of Industry has contracted the UK communications firm Network Technology to lead a study on the standards needed to link cable television services, local area networks and pub-lic data networks. British Telecom, ICL and Thorn EMI are also involved.

This group will look at the possibility of linking eable television networks run by Thorn RMI in Swindon and British Telecom in Milton Keynes. British Telecom's X25 packet switching network and high-speed Megastream and Kilosream digital services will be con-idered for this link,

But the study is also going much further. The group will look at standards needed to upgrade the clude data communications, using the broadband local area network which Network Technology sells in the UK for the US manufacturer Sytek. And it will study atan-dards involved in linking ICL baseband local area networks into

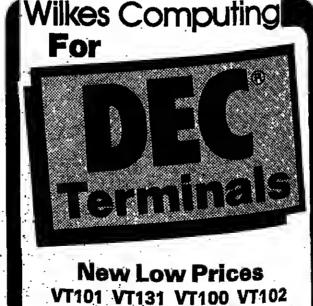
The result of this latest industry-fed study could be a pilot project linking domestic and business users in Swindon and Milton

willson added that the local arenetwork market had moved beyond last year's agruments over whether broadband or baseband systems were better. "We're no

longer arguing over what a local area network is but talking about real applications," be said.

We sold 12 systems last year, What was significant was the fact that they all went to end users

# rather than research laboratories, so they'll evolve to live systems."



(avallabla acon)

# Logica buys out Australians

LOGICA has bought out the Australian operation of its arrabile backer, Planning Research Corporation. The deal means the formation of Australia's third largest

systems house, according to be gica chairman Philip Hughes.
And the takeover of PRC's four bases, at Sydney, Brisbane, Mebourne and Canberra gives Logica the geographical spread accessing to service effectively the Australian market save Hugher. market, says Hughes.

### Hunt for buyer

IO TECHNOLOGY was still looking for a buyer last week, after calling in the receiver. Philip calling in the receiver. Palip Ramsbottom, of accountants Fet, Marwick and Mitchell, who took charge of the UK micro maker's business, said 70 sales memorada had been issued to parties interested in taking it over. He hoped to sell it as a going concen. The firm went public last year, raising £500,000 to launch its loss model. but were theyested by the model, but was thwarted by pro-

#### Jermyn sold

LEX Service, the exclusive UK dealer for Volvo cars, has bought Jermyn Holdings, an electronic components distributor, for £15.3 million. Jermyo is in the top five UK distributors with a profit of £1.17 million in 1982. It is the circular component in the field sixth largest company in the field in West Germany and operates in France. Lex already owns Schweber Electronics a leading US group, and Hawke, a small UK distributor. It is intended that electronics distribution should account for 26% of Lex's turnover of

# Software brings the THE promise microcomputers bold for large data processing de-partments and their end-users is a

ALVEY ... Waiting.

# response

Kevin Cahill THE government's response to the Mrsy Report is due today in the feet of a ministerial statement in

parial adoption of the less ex-pasive elements of Alvey's pro-ated £350 million of expenditure | But the more intractable proba information technology over the next five years, including a such smaller directorate than Al-

The Alvey Committee was set p by the Department of Industry response to the challenge of the spacese Fifth Generation Compu-

the recommendation was that of specific projects despite the semment's dislike of state fund-

The second recommendation is

Informatics is combining with Visicorp to promote what it insists will be the first general-purpose link of the machines. Target for release is also the fourth quarter. European marketing director Doug Yarrow argued that they had not included uploading in the system because of a 'very big cus-tomer reluctance to allow this for

Thursday, April 28, 1983 Number 857 35p

ware firms.
Cullicet, Informatics, Management Science America (MSA) and McCormack and Dodge bave all laid the groundwork for linking personal computers and maincontrol and security reasona". A

The Initial emphasis is on tying IBM mainframes to IBM's per-IBM will do mueb of the connect-

step closer to fruition with a rash

lem lies in developing software to allow the PC its owo intelligence when joined to a mainframe. With that breakthrough the burden of might be shifted to end-users.

Cullinet revealed its plans last week to launch a package by the year-end. Ita IDMS/R will overcome the problem of having to choose between a relational data-base benefitting users and a oet-work approach maximising on power, says international opera-tions director John Karcanes.

The second recommendation is sai the Alvey funded projects, which will be targeted on Software land line in the first said atching the first said and the man atching interface, should be soutcoiled by a large directorate. Again, this is contrary to Mra Thatcher's avowed policy of reducing, and not increasing, the manber of civil servants.

With it is bundled the new Culling inter information Database, which it is proposed to interface with Apple's Lisa machine — and a set of business applications. Delivery here and in the US will be in the fourth quarter, assures UK managing director Vic Morris. "We've made such a fuss about it we can't afford to slip up," be sald. With it is bundled the new Cul-

lowed by a project to put the data-base system Total nn the PC, saya UK genetal manager Terry Booth. Applied Data Research is poised

50-micro group would cost The pace was set by MSA in December, when it stated its in-tention to use a hardware device to bridge the gap. MSA, with its micro subsidiary Peachtree, hopes to put its "Executive Peachpak"

on the market in July or August. uary, it has been demonstrated recently to eustomers in Maiden-head. Consultant Andrew Bailey said there had been a delay in systems walting to be written finding a suitable British firm to make and support the black box protocol converter. It was still "a

> McCormack and Dodge has scheduled the introduction to the US of its software offering as a 'springtime event', and hopes to bring it to this country "some time this year", according to Charles Hogan, European regional manager. A 50-micro configuration could cost as much as \$150,000, he said, but M&D's approach was "more sophisticated than its rivals'", allowing uploading of data as well as downloading.

project which has top priority at its Cincinatti laboratories should be finished this year. It will be fol-

downloading and uploading of files was not the best answer - the wanted to creste "a dynamic inter



# **Micro Focus**

WERSITY OF JOED!

micro dream closer

Micro Focus, the award-winning British micro Cobol firm, is to offer 20 per cent of its shares on the Unlisted Securities Market in the first half of May. And it is more likely they will be offered too sale to the public by advertisement sale to the public by advertisement to be a public by advert MICRO FOCUS, the award-win than placed in advance,

The issue, which will be carried out by stockbrokers Laurence Prust with advice from merchant bank Singer and Friedlander, is expected to raise £3.5 million, a ploughed back into the business. Total value of all the firm's shares on the opening day is estimated at hetween £15 million and £17 mil-

#### **HP** double

THE first of Hewlett-Packard's 14in Winchester discs comes off the production line today (Thurs-day) — the same day that the first sod is cut for its new factory near Bristol. The 65.6 Mbyte 7912 discs are being built in temporary premises until the new plant is completed early next year. The new factory at Wallscourt Farm will concentrate on the design and manufacture of mass storage devices, and will form the sole European source for HP storage

#### **Purchasing policy**

A-RENEWED eail for a clear government procurement policy on electronics has come from the Office. In an update of a report published a year ago the electronics committee acknowledges posi tive government moves on many o its points but re-affirms that a publle procurement policy is vital to an falling and imports are fast

# It's Oscar time again for the British lion-in-one-year awards for duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain duct. And two firms which used to is one of the few women to gain the few women to

by George Black
THE British are coming again to
claim their share of Oscars at the hotel, Londod, tomorrow night

But liag waying at the ICP Mil-lian Dollar Awarda ceremony is likely to be subdued, for some of the some firms have made into the home firms have passed into American hands. And many

salesmen Stewart Lang and Chris

ern Software Consultants' Nor-sal2 sales ledger package made the

The all-Brit Micro Pocus will be it Level 11 Gobol, as well as mil
In the banking sector BIS Softsystems.

And Manchester-based North-

million-in-one category, with its Nor-ma general ledger and management reporting system passing the one-million mark. The ghost of recently-crashed Altergo will be there to take the honours for its Friendly Query System, which also schieved the

and Arbat, continue to triumph under US ownership. Systime, a chunk of which went into American bands with Control Data, is to

Package Programs Ltd, the London accounting package company, is to get swards for sales of the US Cyborg payroll system and of Software International's general ledger and financial reporting and accounts payable and receivable

ments as the group's western re gional manager. Filetab Support Services' rapid

programming language is one of those to pass the million dollar mark — as is Lex-11, from Ace Microsystems with which Filetab has, ironically, been locked in legal dispute.
Bristol-based RTZ Compute

eral ledger system G/L Plus



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■VAX to a trademark of

Oignal Equipment Cety-1318

# LINE NOISE

IT looks as if ICL's 500-strong Applications Systems Division could be due for the axe only 18 months after its rise from the ashes of Dataskil, with rumours of consultants being made redundant as their projects come to an end. ASD was once the apple of managing director Robb Wilmot's eye, but one City analyst says that it is no longer seen by Wilmot as the spearhead he once thought it was, and that ICL will rely more heavily on outside systems houses. "Wilmot's ideas aren't as fixed as they used to be." he adds. Solirces is aren't as fixed as they used to be," he adds. Sources within ICL believe that a reorganisation and change of direction is very much on the cards for both, development and marketing areas, but an ICL spokes-man denied my plans to scrap ASD.

FUJITSU continues to demonstrate the desk-top laser printer introduced by ICL at the Sloob show in Paris last September. The machine is still, according to Fujitsu executives, on offer to OBM dealers, and so far the company has signed no deal with ICL. Part of the reason, according to the Fujitsu staff, is because the reason, according to the Fullisti staff, is because the machine, which is a combined laser printer, copier and facsimile machine, has no controller board. Without the board the device is simply an expensive office copier, unusable for any of the communications applications for which it was designed. Finding a company capable and willing to create a controller is proving more difficult than either Pullisti as supplier, or ICL as vendor, had first thought. as vendor, had first thought



HOWBLLS . . . "NAS does not release systems until it can ship and

a quadriprocessor to compete with the 3084, and looks unlikely to do

This marks a slight departure nimost slavishly matching IBM announcements machine for to the low sales forecasts made for quadriprocessors in the current generation of machines.

the cable system.

Keynes,
The pilot project could become a testing ground for things which are only on paper at present," said Dick Willson, who is leading the project from Network Tech-











micro....

# Lords turn a blind eye to June poll rumours

by uur Parliamentary
Correspondent
THE Lurds last week gave a
second reading to the Telecommutications Bill knowing that their
effort would be wasted if Margaret
Thut her gave for have the

Thatcher goes for a June election.

It is unlikely that either the Telecommunications Bill or the Doia Protection Bill could be passed in time for a June election, since that would require the go since that would require the co-operation of the Lobour upposi-tion. Neither Bill is likely to be granted a speedy passage by

So if Thatcher does go for June, hoth Buls will fall and have to be reintroduced in the new Par-liament if die Tories win. Labour has pledged to scrap the Bills. Meanwhile in the Commona, Enoch Powell drew the attention

of Trade Minister Peter Rees to an anomaly which allows fully or partly assembled microcomputers to be imported at only six per cent duty, while the individual components are subject to 17% import

Rees replied that the government was actively considering with the various industrial interests.

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# Europe ready to unveil IT policy

the Japanese and American fifth generation research programmes is likely to be adopted as official policy by the European Commis-

But Euro MPs do not want the programme to suffer the long de-lays that have plagued the existing with standards and public European data processing pro-

The proposal for the £2.5 hil-lion, 10-year programme, the European Strategic Programme on Research in Information Technology: Espriz), has passed through its initial stages, and full details including the budget, will be published within the next

Sounc 16 pilot projects, in advance of the main Esprit programme have already been approved oud tendered for, and the contracts are shortly tu he an-

processing policy, which comresearch and implementation of new technologies within European institutions. The European Parliament recently expressed concern

Prominent among critics of the existing data processing policy is Belgian Euro MP Fernand Hermain, who said this week: "It has taken many years to achieve very little at greet cost. I mainly blame the Conneil of Ministers for the delays and changes to the pro-grammes so for, and I have drawn attention to the situation in the European Porliament, in the hope that the Esprit project will be run

As if to underline Hermann's point, the first contract as part of approved this December.

prises several projects, relating to week. The Science and Engilaboration with General Electric, Philips, University College Swan-sca and Trinity College Doblin, has won a £2 million contract to develop methods of simulating and testing the behaviour of semicon-

The European Parliament recently boosted the four-year European data processing budget from £8.4 million to £30.75 million. Of the £24.6 million increase, some £17.89 million will go to-wards study relating to informa-tion technology, microcomputers, terminals and intelligent devices, and £6.71 million for denents. The cash will be formally

# Oki gets back to mainframes

armoury of computer companies preparing for the sales wara of the information technology age.

Oki Data, Japan's fifth largest mainframe production, which Oki

A little over three years ago, Oki
— which is a eignificant telecommunications and microcomputer supplier in Japan — announced an ambitious plan to carry out a series of leapfrogging operations in

by Kevin Cahill
JAPAN has now added a fifth
mainframe manufacturer to its
dRAMS to 64K and then to 256K

centrepiece a move back into mainframe production, which Oki electronics company, has announced that it will shortly commence building Sperry Univac
mainframes in Japan.

mainframes in Japan.

mainframes in Japan. set semiconductor production

The factory is now back in production and Oki has won its battle to take on marketing and produc-tion of the Sperry mainframes.

given Oki the position it has been seeking, it is not clear why a Japa-nese manufacturer should be going into non-compatible machine pro-duction when the remainder of the Japanese computer industry (with the exception of NBC) bave either

the exception of NBC) bave either gone compatible in the manner of Hitachi and Fuittsu, or have gone part compatible like Mitsubishi.

The mainframes will be built by a newly formed aubaidiary to be called Oki Univac Kaisha Ltd, which will be 45% owned by Sperry Corp and 46.22% owned by Oki Electric, with Mitsul and Mitsubishi as minority sharebolders.

son has already received six orders for the Series 2000.

Both of the systems can be ex-

Ericsson pushes in with office system

BATESON . . . Bricsson now "well ahead" of its competitors.

by Nuala Moran AS PART of its push into the UK, Ericsson Information Systems has launched Series 2000, an office automation system. It will replace Series 16 which was introduced by

Datasash, now a part of Ericason.
The series 2000 is compatible with the Series 16, of which 200 are installed in the UK.
The Series 2000 features two lines of systems, System 2100 for banking automation, and System 2500 for distributed data processing in business applications. The aing in business applications. The business packages have been up-dated from the series 16 and office oftware such as electronic mail, information retrieval and text processing have been added. Brics-

major hardware changes and uses the same applications program and operating system.

The systems can also function as autonomous minicomputer ret-works or as part of a large-scale

integrated network.

Mike Bateson, Ericsson's UK marketing director said: "Series 2000 puts Ericsson well ahead of its competitors, and we are going out aggressively to corner the UK

Ericsson bas adopted a delibe rate strategy to get into the market past three years. To this end it took over the dats processing com-pany Datasaab and the office suto-mation company Facit.



Eyeiona argued that the mooo-poly position of the national PTTs presented a major obstacle to be overcome by the multi-national by Baris Sedacca
ACAMPAIGN to expose the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT) as a price-fixing cartel has been computing services companies. Although telecommunications had being Services Association (ECSA).

Eyeiona argued that the mooopoly position of the national PTTs presented a major obstacle to be overcome by the multi-national computing services companies. Although telecommunications had benefited from advances in microelectronics and satellite communications. not dropped accordingly. As a re-sult distributed computing was at a disadvantage against standalone

ICL may walk out of Mitel deal

The company will not say what action it intends to take if Mitel

fails to meet the deadlines they have jointly agreed, but chairman Sir Christopher Laidlaw is quoted as telling brokers that the Mitel

deal is one that ICL could walk

to confirm his statement, but at

least three other suppliers, led by

Plessey, which was rejected in favour of Mitel when ICL was looking for a PABX, is hovering in

the wings to offer ICL an up-and-running PABX.

Plessey's IDX exchange, which is both British Telecom certified and in delivery, ia believed a front runner if Mitel fails to deliver. Close behind are French supplier CIT Alcatel, German supplier Siemens and Swedish telecomma signal.

mens and Swedish telecomms gi-

nent than would otherwise be the

Laidlsw could not be contacted

STREYIN Cahill
A RUPTURE in one of ICL's
main strategic deals now looks cerpark supplier Mitel

Brokers in the City, many with
elicnts into ICL stock for millions
of pounds, query whether ICL's
optimism about customer patience

**CEPT** branded as

price-fixing cartel

main strategic deals now looks cer-rin as PABX supplier Mitel thours under a series of tight deadlines imposed by ICL. The deadlines relate to the completion

MO PABX function as well as

According to ICL, which admits

m losing five or six orders for the

exchange because of software

problems encountered by Mitel,

the two companies have now

agreed a tight schedule designed to

where complete working of the machine by the end of this year.

The Mitel PABX is the centre-

pece of ICL's ambitious network-

ng strategy and Mitel recently admited that the earliest date for BT

ICL cisims to have 30 orders for

he machine from customers who

"The problem is tracking anyon down at CEPT. They only mee officially every four years or so, although its working parties meet

And at the meeting he added "The high costs imposed by the PTTs are a form of tariff barrier to rnational telecommunication and there are many other instance of the restrictions of free flow of data and information across

"This is leading to a form o protectionism which will impede the rate of progress of computing in Europe. The software produc companies have not yet been affected because it is very difficult to impose a realistic customs dury on a single master copy of the soft-ware that is being introduced in a

IBM quits peace talks in trade secrets case

amed at settling the case and

nesource had proved fruitless...

IBM believes it must now pursue the litigation," the company

The judgs, Spencer Williams, it.

Associated the parties to court on May 19 todiscuss the next step.

National Advanced Systems lawyers are angry at IBM's atsnee and are believed to be demanding the company has pursued the company has pursued vigorously—and particularly vigorously—and particularly

IBM has taken a new hard line in its trade secrets theft case against Hitacht and National Advanced Systems 11. National Advan Hitachi executives and two engi-Systems It has pulled out of talks guilty to conspiring to steal IBM design information on the 3081 taken the two companies back to mainframe and MVS/XA operating system. Hitschi admitted paying over

Byen the companies 60 days to still the case out of court but when the period ended IBM said stolen. It pleaded guilty in exchange for

assurances from the US Justice Department that no further charges would be brought against

the feture of certain documents vigorously — and particularly publicly — people accused of une-the case has already had consid- thical or Illegal acts against it.



LAIDLAW . . . Ready to pull out of Mitel deal?

# **Buyer** for Altergo **Software**

empire have been snapped up. Al-tergo. Software, was bought by Thorn-EMI subsidiary. Software Sciences on Monday for 1750,000. and 60% of shares in Altergo Ireland have gone to Cord Investments for an undisclosed sum.

Software Sciences takes over the Ayleshury premises of Altergo Software, and the marketing rights to its products including top-selling TP monitor Shadow H

Software Sciences' managing director Mike Shone said he had offered all 35 staff jobs with the new company, to be known as Software Sciences, Altergo Products Division.

"They've been dissillosioned re-cently," said Shone, "but at least hey were all here inday. I hope hey will all stay, because we want to expand the operation."

The deal with Cord Investment

for a majority shareholding in Al-tergo Ireland includes the £1.25 million contract with the United Arab Shipping Company, sold off separately by the receiver.

The European Commission, bewerer, has told ECSA that it is pwerless to do anything as the CFT is not a legal entity.

"We see convinced that CEPT is select the civil of EFFO.

against the spirit of EEC competi-tion lsw," said Doug Eyeions, director-general of the Computing Services Association in the UK.



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# Amdahl takes on IBM 3725

more powerful than Amdahl's 4705. The older machine can be upgraded to the 4705R by swapping circuit boards.

Deputy Chief Sub Editor Mike Marpies

AMDAHL has replied to the launch of IBM's 3725 communications processor with a compatible system claimed to provide; 20% more throughput at 85% of the price. The new 4705E is also 33% more powerful than Amdahl's 4705. The older machine can be unpracted to the 4705E by swap.

tions processors without the need for a switching "black box".

# Cool response to Osborne's latest

by Philip Hunter
THBRE were few surprises when
Osborne last week launched its
second computer in the US. The microprocessor used in the IBM PC will allow it to run under the IBM PC-DOS operating system.

The Executive will not be applied. n PC will allow it to run under the IBM PC-DOS operating system.

The Executive will not be available in the UK until the autumn, and is unlikely to cost less than £2,000. Initial response from dealers is cool. "We need new machines like holes in the head," comments Andrew Margolis of Osborne dealer Lion House. "New machines take time to debug and need a fresh marketing slant.

"The Osborne One had lots of Osboroe Executive is the same weight as its predecessor, the Osborne One, and comes in the same

grey carrying case.

But with the new model, Osborne is making a play for the
IBM-compatible personal computer market, and hoping to appeal
to large companies as well as first
time business users. An upgrade
board carrying the Intel 8088

"The Osborne One had lots of

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bugs," Margolis adds, "but the US at the first time business buyer.

Now we are aiming at big firms."

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The San Francisco cours had

**OD** moves



BA computer systems have soured to an export award . . . but BIS just missed out.

# BIS banking exports take off

BIS Software almost doubled ex- was not dramatic. port sales of its banking systems to 17.6 million last year, but still failed to pick up a Queen's Award for Export Achievement. The company has taken the nward for the last two years, and in 1982 it also wun the Institute of Marketing's Annual Award.

"I guess it's disappointing we didn't win a third Queen's Award with exports up \$1%," admits disappointed marketing nuanager Sian Smith.

IIIS figures were as good as some of the companies that diti win awards, Smith claims. But un-

APPLE Computer recently notified its US dealers that from June 1 those who wish to remain Apple dealers will be required to submit detailed information to Apple regarding their sales strategies, advertising efforts, and other facets of their operations.

of their operations.

The information Apple requires

ncludes the retailers' sales atrate-

gies for each Apple product family, physical description of each retail sales outlet, personnel descriptions including organisation charts, compensation plan, and performance review plane.

and performance review plans, and advertising and promotion bud-

Meanwhile in the UK, Apple has been going through its dealer list and putting things on a more

CICS application programming

programming CICS application design Dasigning an IMS/DLI databasa Dasigning an IDMS databasa CICS for sparations staff

CICS appreciation for management

CICS OL/1 application

were up 68% for the year ending 1982, and orders expected to be fulfilled this year top £10 million, £2 million of which were taken in February alone. Profits will not be announced until results of the

whole group come out in June.

BIS Software's main product is a suite of banking programs called Midas, which run on IBM's System 34 and System 38. These dominate the international back. dominate the international bank-

Apple wants dealers' details

from our colleagues in Burope and the US," says UK managing direc-tor Peter Cobh, "then invited a

very large percentage of our exist-

ing dealers to sign new contracts."

Around a tenth elected not to sign,

**CICS** 

CICS APPLICATION PROGRAMMING

CICS DLI APPLICATION PROGRAMMING

CICS APPLICATION DESIGN

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Duration Price Dales

'We have always taken the posi-

to be adapted for local require-ments and to cope with particular idiosyncracies of particular foreign Overall sales of BIS Software

The company was nearly caught out when adapting the package for the Japanese, since bank interest there is added on both the first and last days of the month, rather than the cape on the other as in most just one or the other as in most

Western countries. BIS has just announced a new module for Australia to deal with pledged securities which banks use to avoid paying too much tax. The company is also developing programs to handle the financial futures market in London.

for microprocessor-based machine control equipment, Datablt for elecommunications components, STC Submarine Systems for un-derwater cables, and Metier for its project management system Arte-

British Airways won a second Queen's Award for its computer systems, just six months after being voted Airline of the Year by busioess travellers. The award for

by Andrew Thomas NINE companies were singled out

for information technology efforts

In this year's Queen's Awards, announced last week. Logica VTS won for its VTS 2200 word processing package, and the BBC and IBA shared an award for teletext development.

Rediffusion scored with its flight simulation system WIDE,

and Quantel won its second prize

or technological achievement for

its digital production effects
system which manipulates live
television pictures in real time.
Audio Kinetics was rewarded

then sell at prices below those of full-service Apple dealers. In addition, Apple is helieved to **Plexus** says no to

\$1 million

trying to protect itself from dealers who are currently on shaky ground. One such dealer recently entered bankruptcy, owing Apple about \$1.6 million. tion that selling a microcomputer in needs professionalism," Cohb says, "It's not just selling pounds of cheese—you need good initial advice as well as continuing after Several Apple dealers contacted had not yet received their notifica-tion from Apple. One large Bos-ton-area dealer, Sherman Howe, when informed of the provisions in the letter, applauded.

asles support."

Observers in the US cite several reasons for Apple's move, First, in "I work very closely with Apple," said Howe, whose company last year did sround \$6 million in business with Apple, mostly selling to corporations. "I provide a lot of this Information to them as a matter of course, I see

recent months Apple has taken several steps to tighten up or climinate the so-called gray market, that is Apple products bought in large quantities (and therefore at significant discounts) and then resold to mail-order houses, who

of shares down," says Jobe, "so we can meet our target of \$1 a share.

All we would have done with the money was to put it somewhere we would have got interest on it."

Rach of the company's seven

Rach of the company's seven investors in the two previous cash injections incressed their investment in Plexus, including London-based financiers Ahingworth. Five other US concerns contributed to the \$6 million. The extra million was offered by a second consortium wanting to take a stake onsortium wanting to take a stake

one area in which Jobe sees the money being used is that of business graphics.

"Colour husiness graphics is the big hole in our line, it's going to be next year's big thing," he says.

Plexus' new products for this year were announced last week a year were announced last week; a Unix-hased network operating system, NOS, and a link between Plexus 16 and 32 bit supermicros and IBM mainframes.

were recognised in the 200 awards presented last Thursday. CAD firm Racal Redac received an sward in 1982 and ICL has won three times the last being the three times, the last heing in 1976. by Andrew Thomas CALIFORNIA-based supermire maker Plexus has secured a further \$6 million of venture capital, bringing its total in three years to \$12 million. And, according to company president Bill Jobe, the offer of an additional \$1 million was rejected because Plexus doesn't need the

Export Achievement comes in recognition of its success in worldwide sales of software, tele-

communications systems and ser-

BA systems include the MAXIPARS reservations package,

fares systems, and a departure control package which is now used

by 22 of the world's airlines. In

addition to systems sold for use on

customers' own computers, the airline sells space on its BABS net-

The largest single software order won by BA came last November, when a £1.5 million contract was

signed for the provision of compu-

ter systems for the Egyptian

other airline, Egyptair.
Other airlines using BA systems include United, Qantas, Saudia, Varig, and Pan American.

No computer manufacturers

work to 21 other airlines.

**BA** exports

the Queen

JOBR . . . Turned down million.

mation of a network of Individual systems that can out-perform ninicomputer in atallations.

minicomputers and superminis flashes of lightning. The supermicro-mainframe link is claimed to be the first Virtual Protocol Machine implementation under Unix III. and also support the first UK sales of its MV10000 the first UK

workstation protocol.

NOS is an Ethernet system which Piexus claims allows the forwhich Piexus claims allows the foran additional \$865. NOS will cost monwealth Land Title Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

Company of Philadelphia.

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get big Cyber
THE first UK order for Control
Dats's Cyber 170/855 big main
frame has come from London University's Imperial College. The
170/855 was saunched a year ago us
a direct rival to IBM's 3081.
Imperial College is a longstanding Control Dats user. The
170/855, valued at £1.5 million,
will replace a 170/720 and run

will replace a 170/720 and run alongside a Cyber 174.

The two machines will share disc files and peripherals and will serve about 600 terminals and microcomputera around the college, in other universities and in secondary schools.

They will sleo link into a Loadon University network, communicate directly with processors at the main university computing centre and at the Science and Engineering Research Council's Ratherford Laboratory and hook late the national university network the national university network, which is based on the X25 packet switching protocols.

### Portuguese power

UK CONTROL systems maker Westinghouse has netted a 55 million controt from Portugal for equipment to control the national electricity. electricity power supply. The system is based on two DEC Var computers, and will consist of a national centre in Lisbon with four regional control centres and a deta ransmission network.

#### Scientific Scots

COMPUTER Technology, the UK'a leading rival to Tasdem in the market for fault-tolerant hardware, has won its first scien-tific order from Scotland. The Forth Valley Health Board has ordered a CTL 8066 computer with Momentum memory opilo, together with the company's Phonix laboratory system, for use in the haematology and bio-chemistry departments.

#### Traffic contract FERRANTI has devised a new

way of collecting traffic informa-tion for the British government in a £2½ million contract. Outsta-tions aupplied by sub-contractor Golden River Company will gather bedded in the road and pass it over the public telephone network to Ferranti Argus 700 computers.

### Thunder system

CAP is supplying the meteorological office with £200,000 worth of computer equipment to help track Europe's thunderstorms. The scientific group of the company will build a real time system round "NOS turns our systems into supermicro building hlocks," says Jobe, "glving a flexibility that

under Unix III, and also supports
RJE under the HASP multileaving

Maidenhead, Berkshire. Lesso workstation protocol.

VPM is automatically included in the Plexus implemenation of. Unix III, and the RIE option costs an additional \$255, MOS.

### Process control

PRESTCOLD, one of the Suter group, has invested £220,000 in a manufacturing control system demanufacturing control system de-signed by UK control software specialist Comserv. The control system will be used to help make mpressors and condensing units or refrigerators.

### \$20m contract

US MAKER of small business systems AES has beaten Wang and. Four Phase to a \$20 million contract to kit out US is wyers with word and information processing equipment. Attorneys offices. across the US will be given a total of 123 AES Multiplus systems for applications including scheduling of court cases,

# Imperial is first to CP/M is now tuned

are given a Prime cut

by John Riley
IS MINI maker Prime last week
manusced a £4 million scheme to
a 40% discount on most Prime

by George Black DIGITAL Research is to start defreing Clanguage versions of its could cell operating systems this week.

Author of the C-compiler, Michael Lehman, assured a softrue reoders' forum in London that C would get the "utmost care

"Virtually all our future de-solopments will be in C," he said. Leman, who was also the author the industry standard Pasand MT compiler, spent some time sportcar language. It is not somethis of Pascal to the 450 guests at mother to drive on a Sunday

give schools and colleges half-price

There are three separate pro-gammes. The first, the Educa-

abols, a 50% reduction on com-

plete systems based around a rime 2250 minicomputer. The

my stipulation is that they are

mafirst-come first-served basis.

is claimed to have the advantage of greater portability and compact-ness over its Assembler forerunner, is designed for the Intel 8086 chip machines. CP/M-68K - the version designed for the Motorola 68000 chip

8086 version, but Digital says this is not a full implementation. Leh-LEHMAN . . . "C is not for grannies on a Sunday afternoon. man's complete 68000 implementation may be available by August.

He told the conference: "C is a

hardware and an 80% discount or

software for institutions using the

equipment for degree courses. The Education Discount Programme

institutions, which are high visibil-

A new support system for inde-pendent software vendors is being introduced by Digital, which says it is now recognised that their needs differ from those of the urdinary eud-user. Schools and colleges

McMULLAN . . . committed. software, which we are keen

beal Support Programme, is to allows a 20% hardware and a 50% software discount for all educational institutions, including tional establishments with no res-Gale Aguilar, Prime's vice-president, systems marketing, com-mented: "We are now 10 years Neil McMullan, managing director of Prime (UK), said: "Both education and Prime stand old, and have just entered the For-tune 500 top US companies. We are now in a position to make more long range investment.

Mout 100 systems, comprising I Prime 2250 with 1 Mbyte amory and 68 Mbytea disc stome, two VDUs, a serial printer af \$12,000 worth of Prime softme, are offered for £20,000 each as farst-come first-served basis. Prime has four distinct targets, affirmed McMullan. "These are nformation technology and office automation; distributed data processing and Information man-agement, CAD/CAM; and educa-The remaining £2 million is for ity areas, are prolific producers of tion and research," he said.

#### The \$600 C-package described try moving in the direction of "layman languages", such as at the one-day conference includes a mitive code compiler, assembler They would be getting a lot of programming and debugging aids library editor, Unix-compatible library, linker and documentation Electronic document delivery is on the way

by George Black PROJECT Hermes — an

electronic document delivery ser-vice planned by the Industry De-It is intended that Hermes users will be able to communicate by electronic mail with other system could now get off the ground.

Over 150 organisations which received the Department's users. British Telecom is to provide a directory of UK subscribers from January 1984. Technical de ailshot have said they would like tails are being worked out by BP's systems subsidiary Scicon. to take part.

The main users of the service are Last month Under Secretary likely to be librarians. Possible providers of information for the teletex scheme include the BBC John Butcher announced that nad appointed five companies -Ferranti, Plessey, Mitel, STC and Monitoring Service's summary of world broadcasts, Elsevier Inter-national's bulletins, Keesing's GEC - as authorised teletex

Hermes users will get 50% off Contemporary Archives, London Business School's management the cost of equipment if they buy from these, with the government ournals, McGraw Hill's publicainjecting a total of up to £4 million tions listings and Sweet and Max-well's legal journals. Data from by March 1984. The service will run over the public phone network and BT's packet switched service.

from **Data General** to Texas by Robert Parry A SYSTEMS house specialising it minicomputer applications for manufacturing industry, OD Systems, has turned away from Data General for its low entry-level offerings. Rather than move down the DG range from the MV machines its Mancos system is im-plemented on, OS Systems has plumped for the Texas Instru-

ments husiness systems.
"We looked at — and implemented — Mancos on the low end Data General CS machines," says sales director John Tattershall, "but they were nothing like as good as the TI minis."

The main attraction was the oftware compatibility throughout the range that comes from running anything from the single-user System 200 up to multi-user System 800s under the same 14X10

operating system.
The Mancos suite of software is itself modular, so customers can extend the system to fit new needs, and the TI kit gives a similar easy

expansion path.
"Traditionally with manufactur ing systems there has been a gap between mainframes or large minis and microcomputers," says OD managing director Philip Purslow. "Now Mancos on TI kit fills that gap with small to medium minis. Large systems, with expensive lumps of software which are expensive to install and manage ar at an end.'

The smallest single-user system starts off at just helow £9,000, but would only include one aspect of the Mancos suite. For a starter system bringing in the three main aspects — the manufacturing datahase and inventory control, accounting ledgers, and invoking a company would really need to spend around £20,000 for a multiuser System 300 and software modules, says Tattershall.

OD Systems' aim is to encompa shop floor automation and CAD work in the same company-wide compilter system.

Exactly the same is true of Saabs.

young executive and a Managing Director.

And yel, in many fundamental respects, all Saabs are

Perhaps it's to do with being Swedish, with driving condillons as arduous as any in the world, a car manufacturer who and a heavily padded knee-guard under the lacia. fied to cut corners on his less expensive models wouldn't sur-

All Saabs can help your workforce keep their grip when Between the 99 GL at £5950 and the five-door Turbo at others are losing theirs in tally after rally. Saabs have proved that

And all Saabs pul your drivers' safety first they'll go about your business protected by a rigid steel passenger cage and Car Plan\* which, in the unlikely event of a breakdown, includes a full reassured by Saab innovations like a reinforced inner-ceiling

Perhaps these down to earth, practical virtues ere simply what you'd expect of Saabs, but their combination of performance To your company, that means all Saabs are built to keep and economy may well surprise you To take just one example, their residual value the British climate holds no terrors at all for the GLi, second only to the British climate holds no terrors at all for the GLi, second only to the standard director blessing 2D 6 means at the GLi.

Versalility is another slightly less well-known lamily feature whether you choose three or live door halchback models two ut #1005 £12,000, there's as much difference as between a promising for road-holding in testing conditions, front-wheel drive is no tess. passenger and/or load-carrying space And all Saabs can be covered by the Saab Executive

rescue and recovery service, provided by the RAC. And should a Saab ever be off the road, you'll get help with car-hire costs too All things being equal, you won't find a range of cars that

will look better in the company car park. For more details of the Saeb range, the Executive Car Plan

or the excellent finance and leasing terms available, ring Niget Young on Marlow 6977.

# "EVERYONE IN THIS COMPANY IS EQUAL BUT SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS"



Residual Seab 99 invitited costs £6.110 The Saab 5 door Turbo Pustrated costs £11,995 The limited edition CD Turbo Seloon costs £14,995 Prices correct at time of going to press and include Car Tax and VAT Road Fund Licence Delivery Charges Number Plates Parts are extra. The Official Fuel Consumption liquides for the 4-door 900 GU dustrated are as follows. Simulated Urban Cycle - 21.9 mpg [12.9 L/100 km]. Constant 58 mph. - 38.6 mpg. [7.3 L/100 km]. constant 75 mph. - 29.6 mpg. (9.6 L/100 km). The Saab Executive Car Plan is available subject to qualification. Source of performance figures Seab Scania AB Seab (Gi Britain) Ltd. Saab House, Fieldhouse Lane, Marlow Bucks St.7 Jt.Y Telephono. (062.84) 697.7

by Jack Gee CAP GEMINI SOGETI, the French software service company,

has launched a European pro-gramme to train sales stall to negotiate with end users in companies which are installing big batteries of

personal computers.

Chris Ugander, president of its Europe groop, said in Paris: "It is still too early to say how microcomputers will affect our business. But the purchase by individual firms of pursual computers than and the purchase of pursual computers. thousands of personal computers tied in to local networks chuld have a big impact."
The GCS European chief added:

"Personal computers will speed up the process of putting computers into the heads of end users. Data processing managers will lose much of their power."

Explaining why his company is approach and grah the new appor-



DREYFUS . . . "We will probably try to acquire a medium-size company."

Vice-chairman Philippe Dreyfus said: "Italy is one of our priorities. We will probably try to acquire a medium-size company rather than atart from scratch. There is no questinn of going after the bigger existing firms such as Italsiel or Olivetti's subsidiary Sintax."

Underlining the role of end users and the opportunities which their increasing prednminance offer to CAP Gentini Sogeti, Dreyfus ssid: "In the US today 85% of Cabol programa were written 20 years ago. It could take another 20 years to rewrite them in the new computer languages. More and mnrc of our competitors are leav-ing the tailor-made software busi-

openings in Italy and Austria.

ness. This is our big chance." Ugander said that in spite of the increasing emphasis un micro-based systems, CAP Gemini Sogeti would not depart from its traditional marketing policy.

"We sre driven by the needs of the market, not by technique. We don't try in build Concordes and achieve technical successor which cannot be sold," Ugander em-

phasised. He added: "We look at local requirements and build our operations sround these. That is why we hsve just set up an affice in Sta-vanger, the Norwegian oil centre becsuse the number of computers installed there is increasing in

# Dec means business with Vax

hy Philip Hunter THERE sre now more commercial than scientific users for Digital Equipment's powerful Vax minicomputer family. And Decus, the DEC user group, has at last recognised the commercial side of the Vax by forming a Vsx commercial users' group, which will meet for the first time in May.

DEC has just snnounced a pureful terminal database system for the Var and is developing a relational database. But Steve Ri-

The Vax version costs £15,000 and offers the user split second response times, and the ability to include an almost unlimited number of producta. "Opra is probably the first complete distri-

the Vax," says Software Sciences salea director David Packwood. Package Programs has developed a payroll aystem for the Vax, and commercial software is also available from Xerox, BL Systems and Allen Computers.

oution system to take advantage of

Decus member Arrick Wilkinson asys that it should not normally be difficult for software houses to convert software written for the PDP-11 for the Vax. Programs for the PDP-11, which hsa nnly 64K central memory, had to be carefully written to save

To convert programs written in Cobol from the PDP-11 to the Vax, it is necessary only tn recompile the individus code segments, and then remove the complex linkages needed to make the package run on the PDP-11.

# Safety code call for chip controlled processes

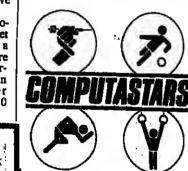
by John Riley
MORE accidents will occur with
the proliferation of increasingly
complex chip-controlled industrial
processes unless a code of safety
practice is agreed, says a report
published last week.
It points out that although
microprocessor-controlled
systems, for example in proving

systems, for example in robotics, offer considerable benefits it terms of productivity and quality, there are inherent safety problems. Unconventional precautions have to be taken as electronic failure modes are complex and not slavy; predictable, the devices are susceptible to electrical interference. and latent software error

These problems are being en-mined by the Health and Safety Executive. It is drawing up a cote of practice which will provide ad-vice on safety, environment vice on safety, environmental and operating considerations. The safety aspect will emphasise pro-gramming considerations, back-up systems and emergency shutdown systems, and reliable software. The environmental consideration will deal with problems caused by electrical interference and fire pro-tection, and guidelines will be laid for operating and maintenance. \*Manufacturing and Service Industries. Health und Safety 1981. Her Majery's Stationery Office, 1983. £6.50.

**COMPUTASTARS** 

# They're off! . . . in the 1983 DP Olympics



over half the entrants were Com-putastars athletes. Some indi-Birmingham'a Alexander Stadium sees the inaugural meeting of this year'a DP Olympics, when Buropean champings Kalamazoo put up no fewer than four teams in defence of their title.



Woman's rugby? It must be Compa

goea to the British Shoe Cor-poration which managed a stagger-ing 12 calls before its entry was

And one of 1sst year's teams ahowing commendable forward thinking is Compower, which is waiting until next year when they'll be ald enough to enter the veterana' competition. Clever thinking.
A full report on the Birmingham heat and the 23 male, five female,

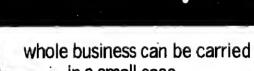
two small units and two yeters teams involved will appear in the May 12 edition of Computer

GROUP 2 Grand Metropolitan 2 tritish Shoe Corporation

GROUP 3

GROUP 4 Grand Metropolitan 3 British Shoe Corporation Fleichers Computer Services Profizon 2
Bristol & West Building Society
Scottish Widows (MacThusels)

GROUP 5 WOMEN Kalamazoo Open University Sheffield Insulsting Horizon (Horizontelles)



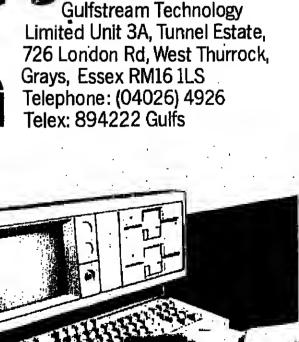
in a small case. Naturally, the Hyperion is,IBM-pc compatible – and it's cheaper.

It also runs the MSDOS and BOS operating systems —

so you can interchange disks and data. And it offers an extra the IBM doesn't - a RAM disk. Unlike other portables, the

Hyperion displays star quality

the world's most powerful portable computer



on a large seven inch

screen - with crisp.

clear presentation.

so stylish, yet

And it looks the part

The Hyperion. What it

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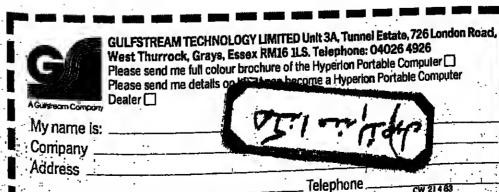
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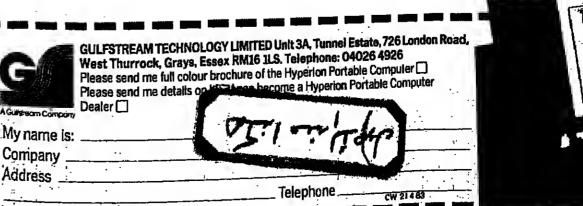
below and send to

takes to be a star.

unobtrusive on the desk.

COMPUTER WEEKLY April 28 1983





retraining sales personnel for this new simulation Ugander suid: "We can no lunger talk nur own DP jargon because 55% of our sales maingers report that end users are the key people who take the decisions nowadays. We want to make sure our sales staff change their

CAP Gemini Sugeti, which has subsidiaries in nine European countries, is now looking for

# Home shopping and banking may be worth \$30bn by 1995

conducted by Booz Allen and agement and technology consult-

by Nuala Moran
THE provision of computerised services such as shapping and banking from the home will become a \$30 billion business in the US by 1995. This is the conclusion of a two-year study of the consumer attudes of 700 families conducted by Rocca Allen and industry experts have predicted.

ing company.

Of those surveyed 60% say they would buy basic services for \$15 a

Hamilton, an international man-ducing such ayatems to the market

"With the timetable for intro-

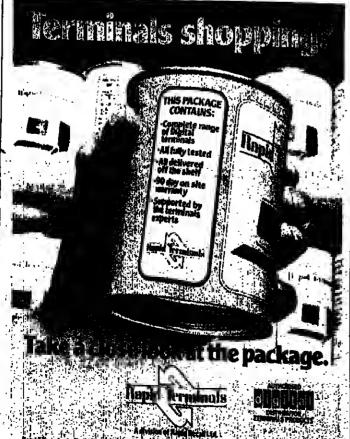
so close at hand, the stakes for a variety of industry participants are huge", Schwimann sdda. Oppor-tunities will exist for European month, 75% said they would use home banking and bill-paying services, 70% said they would use billion market, he says.

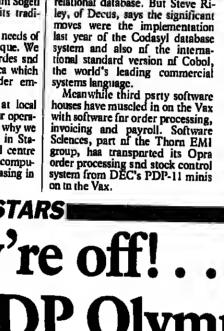
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Surrey, 2M2 548







by Andrew Thumas
OUT with the linament and elastic
bandages — Computastars '83
starta on Saturday.

Birmingham's Alamada Str

Kalamazoo will be looking to avenge their fourth place in the logic '83 John O'Groats to Land's

End relay beld over Easter, when they were beaten by the gallant Computastars team, which fin-

teams will be three from Grand Metropolitan Hotels. Scottish Widows are back too, with two contenders for the Andrew Thomas award for pretty

silly namea. The Jockstraps is predictable ennugh, but the eterans' team name deserves a special award for tortuousness The MacThuaelas. A aigned photograph of my good self is winging its way to them. A signed photograph of my bad elf will aoon land on the doormat of Horizon, whose two teams cer-

the run was good practice for Computastars itself.

Alongside the four Kalamazec

The British Telecom Memorial Award for the highest number of

tainly deserve all they get with the men calling themselves Horizon Shines, and the women Horizon-

dephone calla to accure an entry

Weekly. Watch this space. Birmingham line-up

> Meeting starts 11,00 Kalamazoo C Scottish Widows (Jockstraps) Computer Systems & Products

Introducing Hyperion -

computers seem small-minded.

The petite Hyperion is biggest in

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competitors

offer). Truly, for

the first time, a

the world's most powerful

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at less than

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makes other

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personal business

Or heavy footed.

A ser was a series of the first of the consideration of the series of the consideration of the series of the series of the consideration of the consideration of the series of the consideration of the consideratio

NCR's £34m

# BBC presenter slams the micro

THE BIC's prophet of a rosy future with intercomputers, Lite McNaught-Davis, has let slip that "the whole thing is a disaster".

McNaught-Davis, managing director of Counshare and pre-senter of the BBC microcomputer programme, told the Landon branch of the British Computer Society last week that "every thing went wrong every time."

Most of the programmic makers were there from morning to night trying to get the micros to perform the most elementary tasks, he said with "the only micro that worked the one you saw".

McNaught-Davis suid that we'd all been hyped into helieving that the micro would salve every husi-

"It couldn't, and for every prob-

served for the term "user triendly", or "easy to use". "You should translate this," McNaught-Davis said, "as very hard to use, but easier to use than the extremely hard to use micro

that preceded the so-called

friendly one you were looking at. "We had been led to believe that the micro was something for nothing," McNaught-Davis continued, "but it isn't.

"There are a lot of very clever people around in the inclustry and hey don't come free," he said. 'Imagine.' McNaught-Davis

continued, "people come into me and buy a £50 piece of software and ask for the training to be

expect driving lessons to he His sharpest comments were re- thrown in free.

Moving from the hardware and software end of the micro industry directly. McNaught-Davis described most micro manuals as

"If you started at Genesis and read to the end its blondy hard to work out the code unless sumeone explains it to you.

And if the manuals are not as thick as the Bible, they tend to be iseless, he noted. By way of put-ting a very small candle in the very dark tunnel he had created, McNaught-Davis said that he had never seen so much money being spent: "Literally hundreds of millions of dollars in the US, to solve arown in free.

"They don't walk into a car he concluded," within five years."



MCNAUGHT-DAVIS . . . "Everything wem wrong, every time."

# Ex-Plessey men sell Plessey peripherals

split away from the firm to set up as UK distributor for Plessey Peri-pheral Systems (PPS).

Mike Brisland, ex-masaging director of PPS, and sales man-agers Duncan Hilton and James Adamson formed Centrose to sell the DEC-compatible kit after failing to find a suitable distributor while they were working for Ples-

"There is nothing sinister about the setting up of a separate com-pany," said Brisland, "This in a yery competitive market where generally prices are falling and PPS needed to find a new mesns of

difficult to find and command high salaries. It therefore became logical for PPS to have a diatributor

As there was no snitable distributor, Brisland's ambition to set up on his own led to the formation

Initially, Centrose will only sell PPS products. It will then move on North East and Scotland.

THREE Plessey managers liste which do not compete in the same

sector of the market. "This is an area where between ua we have 40 years' experience and we are confident that we can do justice to Plessey'a products," said Brisland,

And Gerard Mottier, vice-president international sales of PPS, said: "Plessey jumped at the op-portunity of getting people who are familiar with the market and know the products to sell for ua."

Plessey's sales people will now concentrate on the OBM market. The Centrose distributorship will be exclusive and PPS will continue supporting sales.

Suitable sales personnel are
to provide technical and software aupport in the field on its pro-

Centrose will take over PPS's existing end user customer base and is setting up a computerised database linking the customers to their interests. There are three offices in Northampton, Manchester and Ascot and Centrose intends

# Image standards proposed

by Donald Kenoett
STANDARDS have been proposed for handling photographic and geometric images on videotex (viewdata) systems and terminals. They have been developed by working groups in CRPT, the Conference of Buropean Postal and Telecommunications administrations, which publishes standard for Furnance

Documentation of the proposals

CCITT (the International Telegraph and Telephone Consulvorldwide atandards for telecommunications) in September.

Preliminary drafts were presented earlier this month at a seminar In London beld by British Telecom Research Laborstories described work in various is being prepared for inclusion in a revision of the 1981 European standard for alphamosaic (text and simple block graphics) videotex standard for alphamosaic (text and simple block graphics) videotex successive for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by tween national videotex services with different schemes for comparison of the 1981 European countries on links by the properties of the 1981 European countries of the 1981 European countries on links by the properties of the 1981 European countries of the 1981 European count European countries on links between national videotex services with different schemes for compat-

other standards work as possible. Graham Hudson, the UK dele-

gate to two of the groups, said that for the addition of photographic images to vidcotex services, the relevant working group had rejected North American ideas of addressing the red, green and blue electron guns of the television set directly, in favour of using emerging international atandards for digital colour television based on controlling absorptions and the second s

# Granada sets up micro subsidiary

ada Microcomputer Services.

Despite the group's experience in the consumer market — in the cons in the consumer market — in catering, holidsya, cinemas and bingo halls as well as television —

director David Parish said the new

TELEVISION programme and rental group Granada has aet up a microcomputer subsidiary, Granada Microcomputer Services.

Despite the group's area and backup applied.

Wards businessmen," he said, cation and operating system software experts and hardware men as well."

The company will concentrate ware and backup applied.

because many problems are just operator problems — someone pressing the wrong key at the

specialist companies, as well u main awarda for national Press, and regional Press.

Washington office on machines from just four manu-facturers, which Parish believes EROOKWOOD based software consultancy Wootton Iclievs is setting up an office in Washington to deal with around £120,000 worth of orders picked up in the will serve the purposes of most They are the IBM Personal US over the past two months. The

company would have no interest in selling home computers or gamea.

"We will be purely directed to"And we can provide detailed and sophisticated backup by appli"Byson HX-20.

"And we can provide detailed and sophisticated backup by appli-'Arcnet for standard' lobby grows

#### oint venture

ventures

THE Hyperion portable IBM life.

personal computer continues to a tract new ventures. As well as being sold under a Bytec late through Gulfstream Computer Products – Bytec is the Canadan venture capital company should be continued to the continued continu

venture capital company that had week bought Gulfstream and has a minority holding in the machine manufacturer Oynslogic — it is now to appear as the Aille from Slough-based Anderson Jacobson. Up to now, Anderson Jacobson Specialised in terminals and data communications, but has signed an OEM deal with Dynalogic to import the 16-bit potable, its first venture into business micros

venture into business micros.

The Ajile/Hyperloo uses the same 8088 processor as the IBM PC, and is claimed to be fully soft.

ware compatible with the PC Hardware compatibility will cons

in a couple of weeks with an expansion unit that will take 18M PC

circuit boards.

The unit, with 256K RAM, twin 5¼-inch floppy drives, MS.

DOS operating system, Multiplan spreadsheet and In:Scribe worl

processing package, costs £3,600 from Anderson Jacobson or Gulf-stream. An entry level machine,

with only one floppy and without the application activate costs £2,900 from Gulfstream.

CAP Associates, consultancy member of the CAP group, has picked up three awards from the Daily Express for advertisements

appearing in UK newspapers and

trade journals. The company was

given certificates of merit in three

categories for two advertisements, one for field engineers which appeared in Computer Weekly, and one for salesmen.

Other computer companies to

win awards are NCR, Wang, Data Logic, Plessey and Geisco. A total 126 merit awards were given for

CAP ad wins

GCS and TeleVideo have started a joint programme to sell TeleVideo terminals and the GCS series II cluster controller within the IBM GCS'a first offering of an 18M

company, which has over 100 UK

million, will work closely with Prime in marketing its software

#### compatible termical. Wang results

LATEST quarterly results from some top US computer companies are chequered. Wang's net income leapt 45% to \$36,8 million, while Control Data's net income slipped 13% to \$33.5 million. Honeywell showed a 60% drop to \$22.2 mil-

#### COMPANY NEWS Hyperion attracts more



City puts £4.9m into storage system venture

DESPITE the smell of rotated pany has not got its marketing fivestor still wafting around the financial ruins of 10 Technology,

Bermuda-based systems company

The Mnemos 6000 system is Bermuda-based systems company Mnemos managed to raise a total of 14,92 million on the London financial markets last week.

Mnemos is a spin-off from Com-bacd Technologies Corporation, itelf a spin-off from the oil company Tricentrol.
Comtecb, after raining the

money for Mnemos, and floating the Mnemos ahares on to the Un-listed Securities Market, will re-nin a 63% bolding in the com-

Mnemos is the commercial and marketing organisation for a new storage system which has cost over 13 million to develop so far, and which comes from the Patcenter Liberatories in Cambridge.

No sales have yet been made of the PVC disc-based system, which will hold either 6,000 images, or 160-Kbytes of data, but James Longcroft, company chairman,

and they were in serious discussion with five companies, and in more general diacusation with stout 50 companies worldwide.

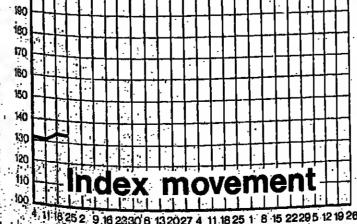
Longcroft agreed that the comnying the Mnemos launch warn that there are high risks attendant

# SHARES TABLE

The shares table, which is specially compiled for Computer Weekly, shows viscted computer companies that reflect the state of the computer industry.

		Exchange	l "		Ť				I
Reh	law.	Stock	Price	C'rge.	High ,	Low	Etock	Price	C'nge
學的工法也沒有的可以不可以不可以的可以不可以不可以可以不可以可以不可以可以不可以可以可以可以可	90代中国建設的通行设计中部的主要管理力的文件的经济证据	AGT (App Com) (Stp) SOC Int, (200) B. Boy Karri (Stp) B. Boy Karri (Stp) B. Boy Karri (Stp) B. Boy Karri (Stp) Cola (Stp)	400 230 31 165 169 210 995 230 303 509 134 78 570 430 408 408 408 408 228 515 164 408 228 515 164 408 408 408 408 408 408 408 408 408 40	+20 24402 24 16402302 27 + 16402302 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27 + 1712 27	17:50 H 17:50	PROPERTY AND STREET	Elec Barle Sys Gen Automation Gould Karris Heaviets Factard Honorywell Intel Litton Ind MDB (Mohewa) DI HSA (Mgmm) Sol Hogaral Aquist Modoral Netonal Semi NCT	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER
<b>与他的人工工程的工作的企业的</b>	万·杨柳公公公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司公司		30 205 180 344 50 195 290 310 115 145 145	- 3 - 16 - 16 - 18 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 4 - 3	3244 84 3244 3247 2294 814 171 25 36 13	HEKERSER!	Prime Prime Reytheon Signal Sperry Corp Storage Tech Tendem Tendy Texts Inal Turnsham	24 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	- 250 - 130 - 34 - 128 - 150

The table shows the closing prices in London on Friday and in America on Thursday. The Share-



4 11 18 25 2 9 16 2330 8 13 2027 4 11 18 25 1 8 15 22 29 5 12 19 26

Company News is compiled by Kevin Cahill

will make Norsk Data one of the more solid companies in this field. "We have chosen the US stock

therea in Loadon which raised some £10 million, described by Alfheim as a "atepping stone" to workstation. The images are then read by a charge coupled device and fed into the workstation's

important market aftet Norway and the company announced a furthet £5 million investment in

This compares favourably with the cost of computer-controlled microfiche at about \$20,000, or CRT graphics at about \$15,000, Geer says.

But to get that workstation cost of \$3,000 you have to buy about 300 workstations and, according to Longcroft, change your whole

based on images back-projected off

the disc on to a screen in the

system will have a workstation cost

Motorola 6809.

mos system is the atudio which creates the discs, and that sinne will cost £1 million.

based instrument and micro leasing and rental company is placing its shares on the Stock Exchange Unlisted Securities Market this

some of his states, interdease was founded by Rennie four years ago with crucial help from the Co-ope-rative Insurance Society which will continue to hold 22% of the equity after the listing.

#### deferring revenues to future years. Opel said purchases were up by 44% and leases were down 9.4%, no doubt entirely due to the fact that IBM last year dropped the purchase price on big machines by 15% and upped lease prices by

Unlike many US companies, Opel noted that IBM's growth in was particularly strong compated to last year, with large-scale ato-rage products like the 3380 and the 308X mainframes leading the way. The IBM annual adjustment of

ienced last year and confirm our optimism about the future of information processing," said chairman John Opel. the accounts for inflation over the The continued progress in the results drove IBM shares up to \$109, leaving few commentators in any doubt that a \$125 figure, maybe even \$150, is now a real

shows just how drsmatic the turnround in the company's bustness fortunes have been recently.

Pew, if any, of the New York and Wall Street analysts have queried IBM's ability to sustain its prospect.
Part of the improvement, partirecent performance.

But maybe not enough attention is being paid to the risks that auccess will bring another round of anti-trust activity in the US and

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA ADJUSTED FOR GENERAL INFLATION. (Source

NMW heads for a profit

Gross Income from sales, rentals services\* Barnings per share Cash dividend paid per share

there is no reason to believe trad-

ing in shares will fail.

motor and acrospace group, has increased its first quarter sales by 16%. Outgoing managing director Sten Gustafason says he expects Saab's sales to grow in real terms, after allowing for inflation, by belion. The huge profit margin la explained by Barton, who notes that while NMW's costs are fixed, tween 5% and 10% over the next three years.

#### its profits and sales derive from the fees it charges for each bargain struck on the Stock Exchange. The volume Stock Exchange trading has risen by over 20% in the first quarter of this year and Cipher's double

US MAKER of data storage equip

# **Cost-Effective** Communications

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# result disappoints US COMPUTER giant NCR has increased its net first quarter profits by 11% to \$34 million on sales up 4%, at \$750 million on the same period of 1982. But chair-man William Anderson admitted that profits of less than 5% on

turnover were still disappointing, and blamed the dollar's 11% appreciation against other currencies which had hit overseas business. NCR has recently announced new products based on VLSI tech-

Dividend cut

BASF, the West German chem cals company which sells Huachi computers in Europe, has an-nounced a sharp cut in dividend after a 20% drop in worldwide profits to DM1 billion (£270 mil-lion). Another German chemical company, Hoechst, recently cut its dividend, and Bayer is soon expected to announce a cut.

#### **Profits chipped** MOTOROLA, the US maker of

chips and electronics products, has reported profits down 8% at \$32 million, on sales up 3% at \$942 million. The results are as expected, says the company, and ref lect uncertainy among buyers of eapital goods during late 1982. Sales of semiconductors rose 6% and new orders were 13% up. Same again

# COMPUTERVISION says profits will fall 24% to about \$7 million

for the first quarter compared with the same period of 1982. President James Barrett said that first quarter net profit would be the same as for the last quarter of 1982. Saab sales up 10%

SAAB-SCANIA, the Swedish

ment Cipher Data Products expects first quarter profits to he \$1.3 millinn, double the same period of 1982. President Don Mullet attributes the improved performance to acceptance of the company's new tape drives by OEM manufacturers.

# Smart, Low Cost and Compatible

The Zenith Z29 — a "smart" terminal for only 2595 with competitive quantity discounts.

Compatible with most ANSI For more information on the Zervith protocol terminals including DEC-VT 52, Lear Slegler ADM-3A, Hazelline 1500 and has Bristol Road, Gloucester, GL2 6EE

systems

POOR ... Not much confidence in the standards process.

oy Donald Kennott

THE momentum belind Datapoint's Arcnet becoming a de facto
industry standard in local area networking is growing. Zeuith Data

Systems, whose range includes the uset group meeting. "Getting people together from alx different companies that don't have a product in the field isn't the way to make a good system. And then the compromises that have to be grade. Systems, whose range includes the licathkit home-build computers and tenninals, has joined Tundy last week at the company's annual

compromises that have to be made between them don't make it any Datapoint does not participate in any standards discussions. "Whatever came out we would have to change our system." Poor said. On the other hand if a standards committee came out with a

better system Datapoint would use it, he added. It would also produce an inferior system if tisers wanted "Standards are set in the mar-ketplace," he said, "What matters is what does the user buy.

"CCITT is probably the most effective atsudards group there is and curlously they don't call their products standards but recom-mendations."

ments the higher levels, but you don't want every machine in the network to be handicapped with

the company's two-year-old RMS (Resource Management System) operating system will provide the

A further off part of Datapoint's future is the use of optical discs. It that structure," he said.

The Arenet system is also suitable for adaptation to run at 100 Mblts-per-second (instead of its current 2.5 Mbps) Inside a box containing a large number of processors sharing tasks and carry-duct on the market is probably about two years away.

"My gut feeling is that once this move it's going?" thing starts to move it's going to baye a revolutionary effect on office automation. With freeze-

necessary support for such a machine.

In the shape of RMS-2, which is to be released "sometime in the next year", the OS will provide context switching. This allows a tiser to "create multiple virtual workstationa from a single display, and keyboard" or in other words to run different jobs at the same time and see parts of all of them on the screen.

"It's like a messy desk," said

frame video teleconferencing or facsimile transmission you'll just do storage without thinking about it. You don't really want it to be rewriteable, because it can be the sake of a logically documented record and it's cheaper by a factor of 20 than paper. If I had started using one for my files when I joined Datapoint in 1968 I wouldn't be through half of the list side.

"I'm not seving it's given and the same of the list year stand at the heary percentage drop to a \$36 million, but attributes the heary percentage drop to a \$36 million, but attributes the heary percentage drop to a \$36 million, but attributes the heary percentage drop to a \$36 million of a basis of a logically documented record and it's cheaper by a factor of 20 than paper. If I had started using one for my files when I joined Datapoint in 1968 I wouldn't be through half of the million, or 80 cents a share. Total sales for the half year stand at

Apr May June July Aug

Datapoint's centre in Brussels thas been working on software to support CCITT's teletex "surper telex" service specification.

"When we started with Arcner our view of it was simply to extend the backplane. It has no layers like the ISO model. It's just a very fast low level protocol that allows one task to talk to another processor with the least amount of Interinediate protocol to go illing systems but most are user about most are user friendly systems but most are user hostile. Datapoint and everybody go illing the open control of the surper stand at the screen.

"It's like a messy desk," said Poor. "With a push of a button I can pull one job on top of all the others.

"The goal we're trying to achieve is a workstation the non-DP user can use as naturally as his phone, filling system or typewriter. There's a jot of talk about user friendly systems but most are user though half of the first side.

"The mot saying it's going to get do of paper — I wouldn't want to go to the men's room in a paperless office — but struggling through in the past.

"The software with the system will be a thing of the past.

"The soft was simply to extend the backplane. It has no layers like a workstation the non-DP user can use as naturally as his phone, filling system or typewriter.

There's a jot of talk about user friendly systems but most are user, though one billion bytes of data would be impossable. Retrieval has to be by just throwing anything at it."

In a tory last week (April 21) we incorrectly stated that Datev had temporarily suspended use of its fruits unaniframes when Datev had temporarily suspended use of its fruits unaniframes when Datev had temporarily suspended use of its fruits unaniframe to the past.

Sorry, Datev

In a tory last week (April 21) we incorrectly stated that Datev had temporarily suspended use of its fruits unaniframe to be incorrectly stated that Datev had temporarily suspended use of its fruits and the past in the past in the state of the past.

The software with the system will be caused the pa

Norsk hopes to raise

£40m

by John Riley
NORWEGIAN minicomputer manufacturer Norsk Data last week filed for 1½ million new shares with the New York Stock Exchange.

Making the announcement at Norsk Data's ceatral European headquarters in Newbury, Tor Alfheim, vice-president of engineering, said: "This placing should raise £30-40 million and will make Norsk Data one of the more solid companies in this field."

BM is doing its share to lead the unorld out of recognization with many life. IBM is doing its share to lead the world out of recession with record

"We have chosen the US stock market because the market is more mature and since our listing there in January our price there has doubled. The climate in the US is right now, being very pro technology."

Last March, Norsk Data made a private placement of 300,000 private placement of 300,000 These improvements are a coafirst quarter sales and profits.

last week's placing.
The UK is Norsk Data's most According to Mnemos mar-keting director Chris Geer, the

UK late ist year. The investment will take the form of additional ataff and buildings.

cularly in the profits, arose from IBM's continued success in shift-ing customers from leasing machines to buying them. Pur-chases mean revenue now, while

aystem of working.
At the core of an in-house Mne-

GUSTAVSEN . . . More staff.

#### Microlease gets **USM** listing

MICROLEASE, the Manchester-

The object is to raise additional capital as well as allowing founding chairman David Rennie to sell some of his shares. Microlease was

# A SPECTACULAR profit rise is predicted for NMW, the Nant-wich based specialist bureau. Neil Barton, a computer industry analyst at Stockbrokers Henry Cooke Lumsden and Co, says NMW is likely to produce a pretax profit of £1.2 million for 1983, against £800,000 this year. NMW provides a back office service to stockbrokers by creating the share dealing records and do

Barton says NMW now has £1.5 million in cash in the bank, a good cumentaion for more than 37% of eushion against fluctuations in Stock Exchange volumes. change.

The company's last reported

SYNCHRONOUS/ASYNCHRONOUS

PROTOCOL ANALYSERS HANDHELD INTERFACE TESTERS

many features of DEC-VT 100. Detachable keybosrd. Illieble monlior (two positione), prints: port and expension sockets for 32K RAM or ROM. Keyboard controlled, paremeter-dulyen configuration (scility.

Powerful adilling capebility, graphics and bullI-in diagnostics. ZENITH data

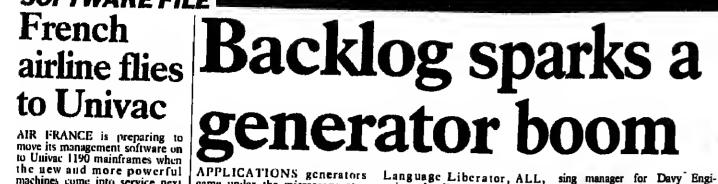
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The French national airline's four main systems — Alpha-3 controlling reservations, Sytare the ticket module, a Gaetan overseeing check-ins, and Sage the flight schedule record — began running on 1108s before heing shifted on to four 1100/40s and four 1100/80s. The need to maximise operational declining during the recession, has personded Air France to make a inassive long-term investment in higger machines.

A team of 160 systems stoff is updating the Assembler and Forran progroms to take advantage of lic greater speed and surrage capa-

The airline's data processing facilities were moved from Paris to the Riviera in 1977 when the government decided to encourage the decentralisation of service indust-



came under the inicroscope at a packed seminar in London put on hy BIS Applied Systems.

The booming interest in the subject – which reflects a mounting backlog in Britain's data processing departments — was shown by the turn-out of 300 delegates from many of the country's iggest companies for the one-day conference on automisting system

development. BIS's September 1982 event, on fourth generation languages, drew only half that number.

The object was not to evaluate the comparative merits of the tools avoilable, but to encourage users to decide what would be best suited to their own computing environinent, said BIS director David

user setutiny were Info, the Henco system sold by Doric Computer Systems of Watford; Mothemati-ca's Ramis-11; the Application

schieved the best results under tests. It completed 98% of a job conventionally scheduled for three weeks within three hours, In-formation Builders' Focus had conse second.

BIS senior consultant Peter specification given to him by BIS Sellars predicted that ALL's at 9.30am. By 4.30, when delepredecessor PRO4 would soon become far more widely ovailable in

These generators would not do awny with the need for onalysis, Sellars wurned. System development could still be expected to be a tortuous activity, despite a 10-1 improvement in programming productivity, he said.

Keith Craddock, data processof the year.

APPLICATIONS generators came under the microscope at a packed seminar in London put on live and live and live and live and live and distributed by CMC; and live and distributed by CMC; and live and lin a great success, boosting indi-David Whiteside, managing director of Scatah Computer Services, said they had looked at 30 software products and ALL had schieved the best results under department efficiency by eight times. Ron Cowie, for BP Oil, at-tested to the benefits fo Maestro, and Bob Hall, for ICI, to those of Ramis-11.

Doric managing director Mike Hare undertook to write a system using Info while the conference was taking place. He followed a gates were invited to see frow he had fared, 16 out of 23 milestones mented: "We never thought that he would get that far, as it was about 12 to 15 mao-weeks of Cobol work."

BIS is to uoveil its owo project support system, Modus, in competition with Maestro, in the middle

2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10 · 2. 10



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MICRO NEWS **Italians** follow chip trends

ITALIAN chip maker SGS Atcs ts fill following the setoiconductor company trend and moving into systems. It has brought out a multi-user business system, the UX16, built around its Z8000 vocessor second-sourced from Zilog, and ruoning Sunix — an implementation of Unix version 7.

We see our entry into the busi-

ness market as a outural extension four activities," says SGS managing director for northern Europe, Waldo Thorn. "The SGS UX16 is wallable with business oriented facilities to allow software applicatiens and business automation tasks to be developed both quickly and economically."

The UX16 grew out of a de-

relopment system to support its range of Z8000 unicroprocessor products – as Zilog's System 8000 business system grew out of its 28000 development system - and has application packages available for computer-aided design, busiass accounting, financial control and office automation.
It comes with integral Winches-

ter disc mass storage, and can be linked with other UX16s in net-

perand

**Atta house calk** 

The state of the s

French firm will make Fortunes

by Jack Gee
THOMSON-BRANDT, the
State-owned French electronics
firm, is to begin manufacture of
Fortune's Micromega microcomThe Urench nationalised computer at a plant in Brest, Brittany rhis summer with an output target of 600 machines a month in 1984.

This objective, which will he modified according to market de-mand, is based on the expected sales this year in France of 2,000 units — about one tenth of the upper end of the French orierocomputer market - of which only about 500 will he made

Thomson holds o 33% voting stake in Fortune although its shareholding in the American company dropped from 21.6% to 17.4% following the recent flota-tion of its shares on the New York stock exchange. But the French firm remains the main foreign

Thomson is confident it can develop sales of the Micromega -priced at between 70,000 France

pany says the cheaper micros work out too costly for a firm when in-troduced in large numbers in the same way — leaving a middle range below the mini ready to be Thomson-Brandt's decision

launch production in France of the Micromega is clearly dictated by the success of the Apple and the arrival of IBM's personal compu-ter on the French market - although overall sales of micros this year will be small compared with those in Britain.

A "mouse" device of the type available for Apple's Lisa will soon he available for the Micromega. Thomson-Brauch is organising a new marketing network to prounte the Franco-American micro. It cloims to have 60 distri-

Ramo - that do not compete on a Fortune's own business, says For nuic's marketing vice president David Van Den Berg, Hunker Ramo sells primarily to banks and

Fortune itself is turning its marketing attention to direct sales to large organisations. This route has been important to Fortune in the 118, where customers include Ford, the Bank of America and Bell Lahoratories.

Fortune's recent offering on the New York over-the-counter mar-ket raised more than \$90 million, and it has a further \$20 million line of credit from the Bank of America. So far it has spent mure than \$9 million on R&D.

# Flood of Unix applications on the way

beginning to trickle on to the mar-ket, with an announcement last week of a business package for microa to run under the multi-user

operating system. Until now Unix has been widely acclaimed as the most sophis-ticated system available to the new generation of micros, but the revo-lution promised by it has failed to transpire, party due to lack of ap-

rate lattica of Precision Soft-ware's Unigem could mark the start of a flood of those missing linka. Precision, funded by successful software for the Com-modore 64 machine, was set up three years ago by ex-Compu-tetplan technical director John Traumer who took on US Unix expert Tom Leonard.

statt of a flood of those missing linka. Precision, funded by successful software for the Commodore 64 machine, was set up three years ago by ex-Computetplan technical director John Traumer who took on US Unix expert Tom Leonard.

Leonard's Unix package is a marriage of the Unix ayatems language C and Micro Poeus' CIS cobol. First versions available are on the Pixel and Bleasdale mechines, with plans to convert

Altos and Wicat.
Precision intends to promote its
Unigem product in the US from

this autumn.

Emrys Jones, predent of the European Unix Users Group predicted that there would be many more Unix applications coming on the marker in the near future. Boardrooms were now telling DP managers to get portatelling DP managers to get porta-ble Unix packages and put an end to constant rewriting, he said. Bea-poke programming was now far-

Leonard welcomed IBM's deel on us to deliver in an impossibly sion, which became public at Harmone fait, to support Unix on its systems generator we could not PC,4300s and Series I machines.

# 'Adapt or die' warning to batch bureaux

BATCH bureaux will be dead in a

few years if they don't adapt, warned John Davis, managing director of Fletcher Computer Services in Birmiogham last week.

His bureau is adapting by moving towards online database services. Conversion from batch via offline database to fully online systems in being carried out with systems is being carried out with the aid of Burrougha' Line system

Line - the logic and informa-UNIX applications software is beginning to trickle on to the market, with an announcement last week of a business nackage for

Fletcher recently completed a pllot project for Shell UK Oil to manage ita 1,500 road tanker fleet.
"They desperately wanted to go live in ten weeks' time and we still baddy's all page to page ?"

badn't put pen to paper," said John Davis.

"It was equivalent to 100,000 lines of Cobol source code and could have taken us a year to do. So we were in a bit of n hole."

mochines, with plans to convert the software for use on Fortune, Altos and Wicat.

Right Shell sites and the head office in London are linked to Fletcher's maioframe via Shell'a

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But the real saving will be in increased uptime and more productive use of your

Remote Services operates 24 hours a day with options like hardware and software remedial maintenance and regular remote VAX system checks.

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gain access to your computer. If you'd like further information you could

always visit us at Basingstoke. But it may make more sense to phone us instead on (0256) 56101.

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# Japan's UK expert investment begins

by Kevin Cahill The first Japanese investment in UK expert systems formally commenced this week when the Polytechnic of The South Bank started two students working on expett systems for Sord Compu-ters of Tokyo.

overall package which will cost Sord about £30,000 o year over the next three years ond is intended to result in commercial packages for use of Sord's rapidly lengthening

use of Sord's rapidly lengthening list of microcomputers.

According to the director of Knowledge Based Engineering (KBE) centre at the poly, Annie Brooking, the first systems her staff will develop will centre on self-tutoring systems in maths and English for use of Sord's M5 micro.

micro.
Although a principal objective of the Sord South Bank collaboration is the production of commer-cially usable expert eystems, from which the poly will derive a 10% asles revenue, the Sord sponsored atudents will engage with other staff at the KBB centre on basic

research into expert systems.

Brooking is already engaged in some of this research and her joint application for an Esprit grant from the EEC is thought to be one of this country's front runners for the transcent of the country is the transcent of the country is the country in the country is the country in the country is the country in the country in the country is the country in the country in the country in the country is the country in the cou

that money.

The KBE centre was set up about six months ago by Brooking, who believes that such centres are the only way for the UK to retain

gence and expert systems.

According to Max Bremer, who I licad of the Open University's KC Systems department and who is also on the advisory committee to the KBE, the UK will lead the world in artificial intelligence and knowledge-hased engineering over the next few years. The Japanese helieve this, having drawn substantially on UK sources like Philip Treleaven of Newcastle University and Roger Needham of Cambridge to develop their expert system components of the Fifth Generation Computer project. Sord's president Takayoshi

Shiina, who used the occasion to indicate that the desk top array processor his company is developing will be available next year, said that the investment at the polytechnic was just a first step in UK collaborations.



# Zilog's pirate woes grow

ZILOG'S troubles with unauthorised copies of its huge-selling Z80 the NEC Japanese copy, and I microprocessor are growing. As well as the action for patent and copyright infringement under way in the US against Japanese manu-facturer NEC, threats have surfaced of an assault on Western markets by an East German manu-

The East German company VBB Funkwerk Erfurt is reporedly pushing on the competitive prieing of the Z80 parts, and was seeking Western orders at the tecent Hanover Fait. But so far the impact on the UK is so small as to be almost invisible.

"We are worried hecause the

East German chip is an unauthorised copy," soys Zilog's UK managing director Phil Pittman, "borwe know very little about it really.

would expect any East Germa vice to be viewed with suspicinn over here.' Chip diatributor Hi-Tek is also

dubious about such a device. "If it is just a copy, then there are lots of questions on the quality that marketing director David Green-field. "There is no point in having the cheapest chip around if it doesn't work. Even the really low cost video application companies have very rigarnus quality There are already various mear-

nations of Zilog's original Z80 design around. Apart from Zilog uself, versions are made under licence by Mosrek, SGS Arcs and

Micro News is compiled by Robert Parry

Software File is compiled by George Black

Babbage

Institute

YCtUR note (Computer Weekly

Dale Johnson as associate direc-

for of the Charles Babbage Insti-

une doesn't do justice to the

founder of that body. This was

Erwin Tonnash, president of Data

Products Corporation. The first

issue of the Institute's Newsletter

(Vol. 1 No. 1 May 1, 1979) says:

Feeling that there was a need to

be met [10 discurrent the history of

the 'information revolution'] Er-win Tomash founded the Charles

Babbage Institute in late 1977,

providing \$150,000 of seed money.

Continued fonding will come from private sources, both individuals

and organisations."

JACK HOWLETT

April 7: on the appointment of

I.AMOND . . . An edge over his US counterparts.

# Britain's own home-grown IBM-watcher

a theory farmulated by a long-

established guru of IBM watching,

Herb Grosch.
Grosch's Law states that for sny

given aunı of money, a aingle large

than multiple smaller processors.

ference, Lamond on IBM, he contended that since the announcement of the IBM 4300

series in January 1979, Grosch'a

From then until the announce-

ment of the 3083 processors in February 1982, 1BM 4341 proces-sors offered a much better per-

formance/cost ratio than the larger

3033 series, making it more economical to grow by adding processors

to existing ones rather than replac-

more competitive against the look-alikes offered by the plug-compati-ble manufacturers, and that many users want to move to a distributed

Lamond argues that the 4341 is

ing the existing processors.

Law has been turned on its head.

processor will always give greater

performance and memory capacity

At last week'a IAL Gemini con-

in the US. A typical IBM-watcher is an individual who gathers intelligence information about Big Blue, and carns a living from market reports and consultancy services to IBM's competitors, and to

Fred Lamond is our home-grown IBM-watcher. His fluent command of the French language gives him an edge over his US counterparts who often have to speak through interpreters at con-

His style is different, too. Whereas US-based IBM-writchers employ armies af sidekicks to make their jobs easier, Lamond does not even have a secretary. And where they lny much emphasis in information for Investors, Lamond concentrates on IBM'a

This approach gives Lamond o fresh perspective on the rotionale behind IBM's moves.

For example, he contends that IBM's cotry into the Personal Computer market is at least as mucli a defensive as on expansio-

data processing environment un-der the MVS operating system. Sceptics may question La-mond's intellectual challenge to Ever since Tandy became the first personal computer manufac-turer to announce an IBM 3270 Groseh, but lils credentials are impreasive enough. He is an economics graduate from Cambridge and Chicago Universities. He has terminal emulator on ita TRS80 in June 1981, personal computers worked in data processing since 1960 (not as long as Grosch who worked inside IBM ltself) starting potential replacements for all 3270 terminals, especially those used for necessing persnnal computing programs such aa IBM's VSPC, CMS, ADI and Plancode packages," says I.a. in systems analysis with Sperry Univar, moving ou to export sales and lechnical support with English

Electric Computers followed by consultancy work with Lensco "Since IBM sells the Personal Computer on both sides of the Atlantle, not only through independent retail chains but also through its direct sales force in Systems and Research. Lamond moved to independent consultancy in 1975. According to IAL Gemini, more than 2,000 parquantities of 20 or more, this proves that it regards its existing ticipants have accisimed bis medium to large computers users as an important PC outlet." Isn't it about time we had a Lamond's Lsw?

### 10 YEARS AGO

Computing Centre was ineffec-tive and that its links with induatry were weak. The allegations

FROM COMPUTER WEEKLY
OF APRIL 26, 1973: A report
commissioned by the Conference
of Industrial Research Associations stated that the National the lower end of the market . . Racal-Milgo won a Queen's Award for export performance.

# Pennymentality—when pounds are needed

from many quarters to coax, cajole or goad the holders of the national purse strings into creating the climaie in which major new informstion technology industries can be

Yet it is painfully plain that such an initiative can come only from government and cannot he generated within the industry as it exists, since control of companies accounting for by 1sr the larger share of the industry's sales resides elsewhere than in Britain

Their masters decide on new products and new plant in terms of glubal strategies, ur the reactions of New York Stock Exchange snalysts, whichever comes first.

It is pointless, mesnwhile, to enmosre the new government-provided research and development budget of £230 million for "future industries" with what James Csllaghan spent in 1978/9, even if it is those who submitted papers to the memorable funds are a mere 10% uf what the Mitterrand government has been planning to spend this year, next year and right up to 1988 on an ambitious, not to say spectacular £14,000 million plan to emulate

Japan. It is Jean-Pierre Chevenement and his successor as French Minister of Research and Industry, Lau-rent Fabius, not Callaghan who oeeds ta be scored over. It is the workings of the development contracts placed by America's De-partment of Defence that should be closely studied. **DOWNTIME** 

THE Digital Equipment users association is coining it with a £250 million national publicity campaign — courtesy of the Treasury.

For the association's initials -

Decus - are inscribed on all 250

million of the oew £1 coins, issued

last week. And the name is not on

the face of the coin but in the more

unusual, eye-catching posidon of

round the edge.

But the Treasury - a Logabax

user — claims the inscription had nothing to do with any links with Decua. Indeed, the full inscription

reads "Decua et tutamen," which

means "an ornament and a safe-

The Treasury says it is a safe-

guard against counterfeiting, for it is difficult to forge an Inscription round the edge of a coin. And to

complete the picture the inscrip-tion is a quotation from Virgil's

A COUPLE of weeka ago, I whinged at great length over my non-invitation to the ICL Compu-

ter Users' Convention at Enathourne. Imagine then my sur-prise at the receipt of a telephonic request for the honour of my com-

The invitation did, however, carry the rider: "I must once again ask you to refrain from attending

Pen power

com it

Of course, it could be said that Alvey Committee's proposals to spend around £350 million on enabling technologies by 1990 compare well with the Japanese plan, sponsored by that country's Dol MITI - to spend a reported \$450 million between now and 1991 solely on building a prototype

fifth generation computer. But MITI's funds are commethods they pre-suppose, while the Dol sppears to be shying away from Alvey as it considers yet another IT industry report.

further £800 million into its Cii Honeywell Bull operation.

lı esn be shown, very simply and very quickly, that significant action on "luture" industries is urgently required. Figures prepared by the National Comput-ing Centre and presented by David Fairbairn at a recent session of Pitmitted, work is in progress, vast sums are being poured into developments of VLSI circuits and the fully sutomated insnufscturing the fully sutomated insnufscturing com. gave Britain's balance of trade deficit in this stea for 1980 as £1,800 million, on present trends. The million, on present trends. The deficit, at the moment, comes largely from hardware.

It will stem, in increasing messure, from software imports as de-

#### Warren Werblow is chief executive of Scicon

Russia's other cold war

IF you ask a Chinaman what be presented in the form of the synop-

What Burroughs US does...

Britain's American hope

BRITAIN'S latest great white lett-Packard has supplied two hope for the wresting of the HP120s and an HP-41CV hand

buted to Alvey, even more than papers to the memorable sessions of Select Committees A and B. Were they really ten years ago?

most thorough investigation any mainframe expertise and create a UK industry had ever been domestic high silicon technology subjected to and they resulted in a mound of paper, which the then government largely ignored, pre-ferring to pursue the more easily understandable goal of keeping domestic bardware manufacturers

Even there they were fainthearted compared with Germany, which has apent three to four times

But who will think it out and how, if funds on the French scale

thinks of Russian ball-point pens, he will probably reply with guf-faws of laughter. By making jokes about the quality of Russian material goods, the Chinese relieve

paranoia they feel about their

rge neighbour. In the West we could do with a

harmless way of making fun of the Russians, too. So I was pleased to see that some of our acsdemics are

atarting to tell jokes about Russian

We decided it was time to see for

ourselvea if Russian weather

forecasts were inferior. Accord-

Ingly we studied five day forecasts from about 10 different countries

proudly announced a new gas

plasma display on April 8. On April 13, the company in-

America's Cup from the hands of the odlous colonials who have held it for 2,000 years or so lies with the

optimistically-named Victory '83.

And the computer resources be-

Britain is putting up a poor per-formance in the world IT market - this year around £70,000 million - in spite of all the painful Those sessions constituted the efforts to keep slive domestic centre of excellence. Neither objective ia, in itself, a condition sine qua non for prosperity or, indeed, for aurvival in this bitterly contested arena. Only a properly structured strategy, which applies to every facet of the industry from communications to education, will

tic map of cyclones and anti-cyclones well known to walchers of

The forecasts looked almost

Identical with one exception - the

Soviet map. It was, of course, pos-

sible that the Russian forecast was

But this is not the experience of

the West'a leading weather ex-perts, who are baffled that the

Russians are so often out of line

"It could be the quality of their

computer hardware," suggests one metman, who would rather not be

Don't worry about us mate. You

seem to be the ones with the prob-

HP120s and an HP-41CV hand

held micro to help our gallant

And of course, if we should ac-

right, and everyone else was

BBC television forecasts.

with their predictions.

become available, would they b channelled into industry?

Now there's a pretty problem for Whitehall: having to make de-cisions perhaps favouring one company over another.

So far, the software and services industry has been the poor relation. It is revealing, for example, that, in figures published when the recent £185 million innovation package for industry was an nounced in the March Budget, the Software Products Scheme at tracted just £5 million in the decade 1972-1982.

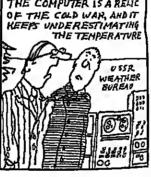
In June 1982, the scheme was relaunched with a further allogtion of £10 million; and now, fellowing further representations b the Computing Services Associated tion, there is a further £15 million, but over three years.

For years we've been saying how mportant the British software in ustry is: that it's a national asy that stands comparison with the software industry in any other country. But our money, judge on the international scale, is not where our mouth is.

The key to the future development of leading edge indus-ries must lie in the ability of all of

Our currency to date has been it pennies when pounds are needed. Warren Werblow

#### THE COMPUTER IS A RELIC OF THE COLD WAR, AND I KEEPS UNDERESTIMATING



# Mainframe nostalgia

BURROUGHS' new entry-level system, the B95, certainly brought a few nostalgie tears to s lev seasoned hacks at its launch lev ONE of the problems with large corporations is the high probability of getting into on-going "one-hand - doesn't - know - what - the other-is-doing" situations.

Latest of the big boys to fall foul of this truism is Burroughs, which proudly announced a new gas.

The corporation is that the US displays group, which makes the things, was being abut down. The letter coded with an apology for the confusion and expressed the hope that it hadn't caused any problems.

Don't worry about us mate. You because the beast is designed and built solely in the UK, but because it brought back bappy memories

for many people.

How can this be? A mere machine bringing lumps to jour nalists' throats? The reason aimple. The B 95 may be just anen mini, but it looks like a mainfrant.
Whoever was responsible for the

external design wins Chad's 1983 Best-Looking Computer Award At last, those people who claim that micros and minis aren't real computers can buy a mini that looks to all intents and purposes like a mainframe which has been attacked by African head-shrink

It may be amali, but it looks like a real computer. I want one.

Robb Wilmot's presentation,"
Perhaps if I moan about this, I'll
get invited to that, too. tually win, the Americans can say that it was their hardware which hind the attempt come from, yes, you've guessed It, America. Hewdid it for us. THE "SEEDBED" PLAN IS, TO GET THE FOR THE NEXT ... HOW MUCH DID Liveware ... THE GOVERNMENT IS GO- AHEAD THEN ... GENERATION GOING TO MICROCHIP IN?

正是1860年的福利开口

Ousdrant House, The Quadrant, Statton, Surrey SM2 5AS

Thursday, April 28, 1983

# GATT - a lot ofpious nonsense

AN international group of 19 private but influential individuals is working towards a more open exchange of technology information across country boundaries and more liberal attitudes to international trade in services. The socalled International Committee on Trade in Services is working on reports it hopes to put before the next meeting of world government ministera involved in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

Whether such a group can be successful is open to question. But any work which draws attention to the mockery known as GATT can only be welcomed.

GATT is little more than a lot of pious nonsense which supposedly opens up government contracts to any suppliers, regardless of their nationalities. But it is that bastion of the free world, the US, which makes the agreement worthless to companies on this side of the Atlantic as far ss selling in the US is concerned.

For example the US has managed to get exemptions written into GATT so that agencies including ita Department of Transportation, postal service and Department of Energy are not covered by the agreement. Yet contracts from the UK equivalents are open to US firms.

European companies are further hampered by the Buy America Act, Introduced in 1933 to proteet US firms during the slump. This demands that companies bidding for central government contracts must manufacture in the US.

Any hints of European countries imposing moderate restrictions on government contracts have seen US firms bleating about unfair trading. IBM, for example, threatened the UK government with GATT rules over the contract for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre.

It is interesting that there are six US people on the International Committee on Trade in Services. It is to be hoped that they and their colleagues can do something to shame those countries which do little more than pay lip service to

# Rethink telecomms

CRITICS of the European telecommunication industry came out in force last week.

In Birmingham, Michael Corby, director of the Telecommunications Users Association, said that the government had the structure of its telecommunications mechanism wrong. He recommended that it throw in the towel and

In Holland, Computing Services Association directorgeneral Doug Eyeions attacked the club of European PTTs, the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications, as a price-fixing cartel. He sees the monopoly positions of European PTTs as a major distorting obstacle for multinstional computing services companies. But he European Commission says it is powerless to act because the CEPT is not a legal entity.

And a group of international business and government lesders has banded together to fight what it sees as "the proliferation of national restrictions to international information flows".

The government, of course, has put forward its Telecommunicationa Bill in the hopes of going some way towards meeting the latter two criticisms. But with ever louder hints of a June election in the air, it may find that by default it is following Corby's recommendation that it or its successor must begin again,

That would be no bad thing. While the principle of setting British Telecom free is generally seen as a major step towards liberalising the telecommunications industry, the mechanism chosen falls short of a well thought-out policy.

There are two main shortcomings with the UK approach: the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL), which will adminster BT's operating licence, does not have the power to ensure that BT does not abuse its dominant position; and it is not clear that OFTEL will issue enough licences to ensure real competition in public telecommunicationa.

If election fever is premature, let us hope that the House of Lords, who have the last crack at the Bill before it passes into law, does more than give a rubber stamp

# 1984 and all that . . .

THIS week's example of the strange things people say about computers was sent in by J. E. Mathewa of Gadalming, Surrey, Who wins £5. And Chips the computer, who not only produces the computer, but

also makes the tea.

The property of the second

School TV Times

ONE of your recent is not carried. an advertisement for UMU's range MANY organisations are currently of factory data processing equipment, indicating that many manulacturing companies were slow to automate their production control ance workload and they know from practical experience the cost of not getting things right at the but were forging ahead with plans for office automation. This may be design stage.

The problem is finding a way of the case with the larger tirin typical of CMC's prospects bitt.

designing systems that will meet management objectives and user across the business community as a needs while at the same time being whole, office automation appears able in accept the inevitable futore not to be so well established. changes.
The National Computing The various suppliers of showcase of their products in every

Centre, as part of a project spon-sored by the EEC, is currently medium from the trade Press to peak-time television. What is missinvestigating systems design methods with a view to estabing for most business customers is lishing what a design method should provide, and how existing some general perspective of how all this new hardware relates together, what real business needs methods match this ideal. Unfortunately what is ideal for new technology can answer and what investment in it can be justione organisation muy not be so far another and different applications

One lody tackling this type of issue is OFIX (the Office of the

within the same organisation may call fur different approaches. It seems likely that there will be many "ideals" depending on cir-Privacy Bill campaign cumstances. Certainly there is no shortage of methods. About 80 have been identified su fur and THE Computer Law Committee uf the Society of Conservative doubtless there are more. Some of these are likely in be more closely Lawyers has severely criticised related to development activities certain aspects of the Datu Protec-tion Bill which is going into its committee stage in the Huuse of outside the design area, particullarly to requirements analysis, and some cover other areas as well as

LETTERS

investigation

Design

While much work has been done in my capacity as chairman of on the development of methods, the committee, I have received a note from the Home Office saying guidance on the selection of an appropriate method is rather more that the government is prepared to scarce. To help in auch an assessconsider widening the exemptions ment, questionnaires are being prepared io which participants will froro registration (and therefore the ambit of the Bill) if categories be able to indicate their needs of a of harmless data can be satisfactordesign method and also their experience in the use of any method, We would be intereated in hearwhether proprietary, publicly ing from your readers with their available, their own, or some comthoughts on the data, or data bination of these. Similarly veousers, who ahould be exempt from dors of methods will be able to

indicate the attributes of their par ticular approaches. If any readers would like to par-nicipate in the study, I will be happy to provide further informa-tion. The findings will be given to

those who take part.
G. LONGWORTH Senior Consultant DP Methods Division

**National Computing Centre** 

# Forum for Unix users

WOULD like to invite you readers to the inaugural meeting of confirmation of the readers to the inaugural meeting of confirmation of the read on Friday, May 13, at 10.30am at NCR, 206 Marylebone Road, London don, NWI. To cover administrative costs, a £5 admission charg

The group will provide a forum for Unix users, software suppliers and manufacturers of Unix based hardware in the UK to discuss the UK to matters of mutual interest. These will primarily revolve round com

mercial matters.
/usr/group/UK will be sn official chapter of /usr/group International and has been formed as a result of strong pressure from Unix users. .I look forward to welcoming

aoyone with an interest in com-mercial aspects of Unix to this A. J. LAZZERINI

Plexus Computers
Langley Mili Notts,

/usr/group/UK

# No manual

J. P. BENNETT'S letter (Computer Weekly, April 14) on the article "Invitation to Forth" suggested that Acornsoft's Forth should not have been omitted as it is "one of the most powerful versions on the UK market"

Though this may be true it is an entirely unsupported assertion as, though the tspe has been sent out, no manual is available and it is impossible to use the tape without

C. W. MARTÍN Sheffield University

# Sharing of experience

DEIX came into being when small group of interested users got trogether to explore issues such as there. It has grown substantially and now provides a forum in which user experiences are shared and a pool of more general knowledge can be established. It is an independent body run by and for end users to enable them to learn from each other and providing the more general perspective

Membership costs only 15 per year and a free information pack is available. If any of your readers would like to know more about OFIX, all they need do is send their hosiness card or letterhead to me and we will take it from there. G. L. STEPHENS OFIX Publicity Officer

the Bill as we are co-ordinating :

cumpaign to persuade the govern-

our view it is quite inappropriate

for the Bill to apply to the great

mass of enterprises whose collec-

liuns of data ore merely

straightforward ones to run their

27 Chancery Lane

London WC2A 1MT.

business with no intention of di-

vulging that data to outside par-

The Editor welcomes letters com-

menting on subjects published in Computer Weekly, or on original top-ics. All letters mutt be accompanied

by the writer's nome and address, not

RODNEY HYLTON-POTTS

Chalfant Software Services Little Chalfont

York's Prolog

Yt)U describe the York portable Prolog system as a commercial product (Computer Weekly. March 3). To avoid misunderstandings, I should like to clarify the basis on which it is to be distributed.

The system was developed as a research tuul, and we are making i more widely available in the belief that doing so will benefit the aca-demic and industrial research community. Unforunately, lack of resources prevents us from offeriu formal support.

The portable Prolog system i based on an interpreter written in a portable sobset of standard Pascal, and has been run on over 15 different machines. Further details are available from Maureen Bulmer in the Department of Computer Science, University of

J. M. SPIVEY University of York.

# CENTRE INTERNATIONAL ROGIER BRUSSELS MAY 3-5 1983

# See all the latest advances in computer equipment and services.

Far commercial and industrial end users, camputer specialists, OEM traders, cansultants and suppliers of computer systems and services Campec Europe '83 provides an ideal opportunity ta see and examine a full range of equipment – small business systems – mini and microcamputers – peripherals and software.

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Compony

# New Tandem will take the Girobank's strain

CHAMPAGNE curks were popping last week at Tandeni, the US-owned world leader in failsafe from the big four banks. computer systems. The company had just signed a £4 million contract with the National Girobank for the larger part of a new to take advantage of the new and long overdue banking system to replace an existing ICL DME

randem is supplying four of its NonStop computers: two at the bank's head office and one each at the regional offices in Liverpool and Birmingham. The Tandem machines will process the accounts in the regional offices, and will be linked to the central mainframe in

Giruhank has long needed a better system to cope with the 5,000 new accounts each week. The present nne is still based on the original system set up when the bank was formed by the Post

Since then the bank has introduced bank accounts with personal loans among other facilities, and NIX . . . deluged

Britain's best-selling 16-bit personal computer

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want, just clip the roupon for details

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commitment which over 100 software organisations have made to the ACT Sinus 1

On this page are just a lew of more than 400 packages now available for the Sirius 1.

The packages range from traditional accounts programs to sophisticated computer-aided

design systems and there is a whole host of software for specific industries and professions.

If you're looking for a computer solution to match your business requirements, then phone one of the numbers above, before you look any further. They're all convinced

that the ACT Sirius 1 is the best machine of its kind in the country — and they have the

nications facilities. But particu-larly important, says Jim Nix, systems project manager, is that the new system will be structured

The development team is deluged with requests for new bank- eral different systems are being ing facilities, all of which have to be implemented on the computer before being released to eustomers. The present software, says Nix. is now too convoluted to allow quick enhancement

processed at the headquarters in speech to be recorded and Bootle. The Post Office acts as transmitted, as well as enabling branches, but simply send cheques office diaries to be kept for inspeceashed and deposits made to the Girobank for processing.
There are 20,000 post offices,

oranchea thon the reat of the big banks put together. This has so far made it impossible to link all post offices to the Girobank computer.

But four post offices are electronic communications net-involved in a pilot scheme with a work with circuits shared by text £500,000 grant from the Depart- data and speech.

"The money for this runs out at the end of this year, so theo there will be a post mortem," says Nix. to the Girobank's plans, and sev-

evaluated at present.

But the most interesting work is being done with equipment from Office Technology, a sister com-pany of CTL, one of the tenderers the main systems contract. All Girobank transactions are This equipment allows text and tion at any of the terminals.

"OTL's was the most advanced equipment available at the time." giving the Girobank more enthusea systems development manager Don Levin.

the software consultancy A. D. Little on development of internal

To the design of the second of



Girobank . . . new systems in the affing.

# Who pays best - large or small installations?

WHICH pays the best: a large sinstallation with processors at different sites, or a small microcom- are doing more than those with outer user? The answer seems to just one minisomputer to mind. depend on what job you are doing, if the results of a recent survey made by Surrey-based Computer Economics are to be believed.

Computer managers, shift eaders, and to a lesser extent perators seem to fare much better large than small installations. for programmers and systems malysts the installation size is un-

No surprise here. Managers at larger installations are likely to sample of six job categories, which have more responsibility and more makes interesting reading for those people reporting to them than their brethren at smaller sites.

But programmers and analysis

tend to work in teams of similar

size at big and small installations. The survey was based on the November 1982 salaries of 35,000 people at 491 installations. The results give us the salaries of 39 job categories at four different size of installation expressed as a percen-tage of average for the category. Unfortunately Computer Eco-

nomics would not divulge the actual salary figures. But we give a

Job title	group !	group 2	group 3	group 4
Data processing manager	81	96	106	131
Operations manager	84	94	108	130
Systems analyst	94	96	103	100
Programmer	96	97	102	103
Shift leader	78	91	102	121
Operator	84	12.5	Dod	114

THE table shows average salaries of six different job categories at four different sizes of installation, expressed as a percentage of the overall average for each job category Group I is small installations, typically a minicompute with local terminal network. Group 2 is typically a multiple processer a mainframe with a limited online terminal network. Group 3 is a large installation with mainframes at different sites, possibly linked, and an extensive online terminal network with database. Group 4 is a group of large central containing several multiple processor mainframe systems linked together with online database and big terminal network.

# Where are VDU operators:

IS there such sthing at a profes- And the results were astoned sional VDU operator? It seems ing, says the authority.

that such a breed is rare, at least in

Discourse of the workers were divided into Plymouth, where the Health two teams of six for a morning and help computerise 280,000 patient with two 15 minute breaks.

So instead the authority hired 12

In this way 2,000 records a day were converted. By the time the part-timers for the tedious work of copying from manual files into a minicomputer driven by software from British Medical Systems.

Were converted. By the work was complete, there were only six of the original 12 left, and yet the work was being done faster than ever.



THIS diagram represents a chessboard with two discs positioned on central squares. The problem is to put 14 mere discs in 14 other squares, in such a way that no three of the 16 occupied squares lie on the same horizontal rank (eight squares), vertical file (eight squares), or diagonal (of any

length).
Clearly, the six squares flanking
the two existing discs are immedithe two existing discs are immediately ruled out as possible sites for placement. See page 55 for solu-





■ Prime Computer announces the intmeet of Richard Mott (above) as managing director of Prime Computer CAD/CAM, for-merly Compeda Ltd. He has been Prime manager for five years, and in 1983 became a director of

David Musson has been appointed head of marketing at Presidel. Previously residential services manager for Prestel, he has worked in British Telecom's viewdata service for eight years.

Crown Computer Services has spointed two directors to the board. They are Vie Jaffa, general manager, who has been with the company since its inception in 1981; and Kevin Kelly, market development manager of Beaufort Computer Services, who is currently responsible for directing and co-ordinating the marketing developments of that company and Crown Computer Services.

■ Goold SEL has expanded its field sales force in South-east Eng-land with the appointment of two and with the appointment of two tales executives. Ian Boyd, formerly with Geisco, will cover the Berkshire area; and Steve Nutt, previously with Burroughs Machinea, will cover the Southwestern quarter of South-east England

Brian Iverson, formerly head of publicity and promotions with iCL, has joined DBA Computer Services as marketing director.

fence and avionics company, and managing director of the Philips Systems Group, has been appoin-ted to the board of Philips I John Penrose, who was at Hew-lett-Packard for 20 years, latterly as group finance manager, has responsibility for Pye Telecommu-nications and Phillips Research been appointed financial director at CPU Computers.

## DIARY

Visit to Future Technology Ltd. BCS Glasgow microcomputer sub-group. Details from W. Jack on (041) 552 4400, ext 3615.

Computer revolution — when will it beam? Branch AGM. IDPM Central London branch. Altergo, Imperial House, 15-19 Kingsway, London WC2. 6.00.

How to choose a micro. IDPM Sussex branch. Town Hall, Market Square, Horabam. 7.00.

The work of the National Computer Centre, Branch AGM. IDPM Birmingham branch. New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham. 7.30.

MAY 10

How to work with salesmen Institute of Data Processing Management Sheffield branch, Grosvenor House Hotel, Sheffield. 7.00.

tions director. He was previously

the company's operations man-

■ Gerry Richings bas been appointed director of training at BIS

regional development at B1S,

establishing two new offices dur

ing this time.

Information technology and em-ployment, preceded by AGM. IDPM West London to Oxford

Discussion on Royal Charter BCS Cheltenham & Gloucester branch. Golden Valley Hotel. 7.30. Details from D. Went on Gloucester 416301.

AGM followed by computer graphics. BCS Bristol branch. St Vincent's Rocks Hotel, Clifton.

### CONFERENCES

ing on the practical skills needed to build expert systems. Speakers are practitioners who know the tech-niques and pitfalls involved in de-signing such software. Several ourrently operational expert aystems will be analysed and damonstrated. UK venue is Middlesex Pobrachale. It all be told on June 22 and the fee is £64. Details: Hexadecimal Press, 23 Torrington Gardens, London N11 2AB.

DATA Training is to hold its IBM Cobol programming courses, which include JCL, in Manchester from August 30-September 30, and in London from May 23-June 24. There are further London courses in July and August. Each

systems have been in the limelight lately, and the Japanese fifth generation computer project can take some of the certific feath in Harm. some of the credit for this. Hexadecimal Press is aiming to cater
for the growing interest in the
subject with a short seminar focusing on the precipal chills recorded. practical with programming exer-cises, such as the writing and testing of fairly complex programs. Further details from Philip Corker on 01-404 5444.

COURSES being organised by Compower during May include Fortran, Basic under VSPC and Basic APL Language. Fortran, which costs £415 introduces the VST Teatrak being describing how to write programs covering a wide range of applications. Basic under VSPC, which costs £365, is a foundation course. Basic APL language, with a fee of £415, is intended to provide an introduction to the VS APL system under CMS. All courses are held in Cannock, Staffs. Details: Cannock nock, Staffs, Details: Cannock

■ David Jeffrey has been appoin- ■ Winner of the Langton/BIM IT ted services manager at Yearessay awards, Ivan Newman, Microserve. He was previously UK service manager at Commodore Business Machines having branch, received his prize, an ICL personal computer, at the prizespent 12 years at Rank Xerox before that. Office in 1992. Second prize, a Bob Woods has joined the newly-formed Koogsberg Systems
Technology as sales manager. He went to the Kongsberg Group in

■ Newbury Data Recording has ■ Electronic components distribu-tor VSI Electronics UK has ap-pointed Richard Rickard as operapromoted Joe Oaborne from Cam-bridge area sales manager to Southern region sales manager. He joined the company from Flexidata as a service engineer in 1974.

> ted director of TLR Computer Consultants and TLR Software. He joined the group at the begin-

■ Dave Rushen has been appoin-

has appointed Allstair Morris as sales representative. He was

■ The Bracknell division of Ferranti Computer Systems has ap-pointed Commander Robert Forayth as naval sales manager. He has been a senior sales executive with the company's naval sales team for the last 20 months.

1982 from Philips, where be was a Andrews, of Smith International

for Harris Systems as marketing support manager, laboratory. David Dawson (second left), 20, 1011 as Michael Wilding (right), 33, who joins as safrware Southern technical representative. ■ Cotswold Computer Services

nternotional group as managing director of its associated software house Fi-Cord Software. He started his career in software with Fi-Cord and later became o partner an independent software

Mari Home Computers Division announces the appointment of the fallowing: Peter Hradek (left), 35, for the Rayal Corps of Signals. Martin Walker second joins as product marketing manager, kaving worked over right), 30, who jains as training manager, worked to the post 14 years for ICL and Rank Xerox and latterly Garrand as chief electronic engineer in the REPI legislatory. Passid Degrees (Second Lett., 20, pp. 4)

Norrie Hill, the Camberley-based CAD company, has named Bill White as marketing manager. He customer services manager. He He was previously in sales and marketing at Hewlett-Packard, and before that with Sinelair Radionic. eustomer services manager. He was previously applications support manager at Grand Metropolitan Information Services.

■ Exxon Office Systems has ap-pointed Alwyne Sinelair as marketing manager, covering the West End of London and the Western Home Counties. He was previously with IBM as n salesman for its office products, joining Exxon Office Systems as a salesmon in 1980.

■ Technical director at Encutel Systems is to be Martin Reynolds (above) who is 28. He joins from Inner Product.

# TRVV has the Advantage.

A company called TRW and North Star, a leading producer of desktop computers, have formed an unbeat-

As a world marketing organization for high technology armfucts, TRW Datacom befor shape the future by build ing distribution channels for the best systems from the best sources. Now we're putting the full strength of our experience worldwide behind North Star ADVANTAGE

Both models put computer technology to individual use. The ADVANTAGE offers organizations large and small a Incal-area network system with 8 and 16 bit processors, advanced graphics, and a full selection of business

software. While HORIZON is the perfect, low cost multiuser micro. Most importantly, the reliability and performance of all North Stac products have been demonstrated repeatedly in every industry environment

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New distributor inquiries are invited

· (1)

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ing and a supplied to the supplied of the supp

# COMPEC EUROPE PREVIEW

The European market is becoming increasingly im-

An interview with Christopher Layton, one of the ontant for Japanese and US manufacturers in in- driving forces behind Esprit, appears on this page formation technology. The European Community together with an examination of the CAD/CAM mardoes not want to remain an idle spectator and has faunched its own initiative into research and development called Esprit.

International Community together with an examination of the CAD/CAM many does not want to remain an idle spectator and has ket. The next pages concentrate on the broader many development called Esprit.

# Europe responds to the Japanese challenge

The European information technology market will be boosted by the announcement of the EECs Esprit programme. Boris Sedacca talks to Christopher Layton, an EEC consultant about the programme

ACTION by the European Commission to promote the commustrategic task for a European resbillion from industry (around £1.2
billion in total). gather momentum with the launch of the European Strategic Pro-gamme for Research in Informa-

ment has set up the Atvey Committee which has called for a UK

hivey concentrates on informa-tion processing whereas Esprit addresses the whole area of office summation and flexible manufac-

While research and derecomment have been the initial focus of Esprit, it is now clear that are reflections. The full Esprit the programme forms part of a broader atategic plan for market development of the European electronics and information tech-

ponse to the American and Japa-European Commission, a position which placed him one level down from Industry Commissioner Vis-

Layton, who apent 10 years working for the EEC, is still a highly placed consultant there. In an interview with Computer Weekly, Layton said: "This will entail a lot of fresh thinking on the part of the Community. The aim is to mobilise the marketplace more effectively, by means of large-scale

development of the European be announced in the middle of the entropean commission is be announced in the middle of the entropean commission is be announced in the middle of the entropean will come from the Community and industrial national."

We shall cease to be among the first rank industrial national."

Layton will be one of the key speakers at a forthcoming confermation.

Alvey proposals where up to 90% of some expenditures are to come from the government. The Commission takes the view that if in-

"It was agreed that Community

dustry is not prepared to put money in, then it cannot give cipste initially, but there has been a fundamental change in attitudes

over the last three years by the large European companies which now recognise the threst they face. "Philips has taken the lead in many ways because it does not

ing accuracy. They can also

throughput required for these cal-

support the heavy

ence organised by the Policy Forecasting Unit entitled "Fifth Generation of Computers" on 25 May at the Institute of Chartered

specific sectors of information pushed out whole ranges of pro-ducts," says Layion.

The first part of the conference

will examine the nature of the chalconcentrate on specific proinclude consultant Dr Ian MacK-intosh, Dr Horst Huenke, man-ager for the Esprit pilot projects at the EEC, Alastair MacDonald,

LAYTON . . . "The aim is to mobilise the marketplace more effective

Technology division at the Department of Industry, and Clive Sin-

right to give the company the opportunity to state its position," ex-

ment subsidy on research and development. Nevertheless it is a large employer in Europe, and it is an important question whether it

it shifts away from agricultural is

overall stategy for Europe, includtures because that is when incomes

# CAD can be wonderful but too few know it

The table lists the five most ikely manufacturing industry sec-tors to benefit from CAD/CAM sage and ahows the percentage the sample sizes are small, the re-sults show that only 16% of companies in the engineering and car and acrospace industries currently

urthermore there is a tendency r such users to be larger com-unies. Out of 18 CAD/CAM

hese results correspond closely to recent government studies on the use of CAD/CAM in industry. These studies also noted a generally low usage and a tendency to-wards larger companies, despite the availability of CAD/CAM systems which Can run on minicomputers and a run on minicomputers and which are within the budget of medium sized

The problem according to IDC is making the smaller companies sware of the advantages CAD/-CAM can offer them.

One government reports states:
Any difficulty in implementation concerns not the inherent technical capabilities of the system but rather the information gap that has to be bridged in order to make companies aware of what CAD/CAM systems can offer and the affort required to tailor commer-

development of the three-dimen-aional modelling software required for mechanical design applica-tions. This market has been slower to develop partly because of the complex calculations required to

Hence there is a clear challenge that at present there is a low usage of Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/-CAM) among manufacturers, even the those industries most likely to benefit form in those industries most likely to benefit form in the content of the c

The cost of minicomputer based CAD systems range from \$125,000 to \$600,000. Added OEM value typically includes the design and plotters, graphics terminals,

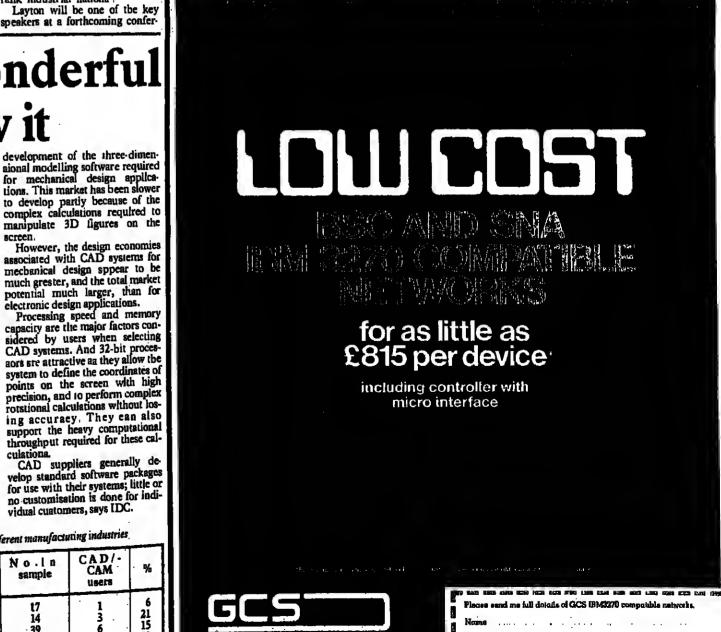
Hardware accounts for 90% of the cost of a CAD system, software only 10%. Workstation peripherala, including terminals and tablets, represent the largest share of hardware costs, followed by system-level peripherala like disc and tape drives, printers, plotters and digitisers. The processor, including main memory, represents

custs, says tDC.

The rapid growth in the CAD market has been fuelled by the vidual cuatomers, says IDC

Proportion of CADICAM users in different manufacturing industrie

Industry	No.In sample	CAM users	- %
Chemicals Fabricated metal Mechanical machinery Electronic machinery Transportation equipment Sub total Othar	17 14 39 22 10 102 87 189	1 3 6 5 1 16 2 18	6 21 15 23 10 16 2



# TABLE 1: BRITISH IM-PORTS OF PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT (BY MAIN SUPPLIERS)

TABLE 3: BRITISH EX-PORTS OF TOTAL PERI-PHERAL EQUIPMENT (BY

MAIN MARKET	rs)	_ ,
		Jao-Dec
	1982	1982
	1000	£000
Belgium-Luxembourg	6,850	13,368
France	39,761	79,204
Germany (West)	40,092	91,014
Italy	21,463	46,936
Netherlands	8,226	18,060
Nurway	3,411	7,212
Saudi Árabia	6,705	15,599
South Africa	9,008	19.008
Spain	8,791	8.059
Switzerland	8,255	18,059
weden	7,618	18,159
JS		12,131
		,

PUT UNITS BY MAIN SUPPLIERS (BY VALUE)  Jan-Dec Jan-Dec
1982 1982 1900 £000

POLATIFK2 (B.	Y VALI	JR)
•	Jan-Dec	an-Dec
	1982	1982
	T000	0000
Argentina	5,045	4,175
Austria	2,658	2,103
Belgium-Luxembourg	3,245	6,921
France	10,044	12,526
ireland	13,504	9,283
lialy '	32,579	34,591
Japan Japan	21,450	11,501
Netherlands	5,831	3,252
Sweden HK	25,086	41,497
US US		63,945
C-3	128,176 [	18,572

LIVRIE 9: GE	RMAN	IM.
PORTS OF T	RVM	A 7 %1
SUPPLIERS (B)	Y VOL L	IME
	Jan-Dec J	an Dec
	1982	1981
A	No.	No.
Argentica Austria	1,215	639
Dulaina Lasa	4.133	3,089
Belgium-Laxembourg	3,417	4,305
Ireland	8,589	7,624
ligiy	11,856	6,135
Japan	32,799	27,784
Netherlands	90,521	47,964
Sweden	5,228	3,303
UK	20,763	. 9,838
ÜS		50,440
	129,992	34,630

PUT UNITS SUPPLIERS (BY	RV M	OUT- IAIN IIO
Austris Belglum-Luxembourg Denmark Finland France	1982 2000 9,119 6,427 -3,124 2,106	1981 5000 9,369 7,709 4,399 2,061
Italy Netherlands Norway Saudi Arabia South Africs	17,484 13,395 8,188 1,477 2,126 2,340	17,424 17,238 9,689 1,846 910 3,564

	Switzerland UK US	12,464 16,559 15,701	13,381	
	TABLE 8: PORTS OF	INDIT	AT IT	
	PUT UNIT	Jan-Dee Jan-Dee 1982	JME) Jan-Dec 1981	
	Aurtria Belgium-Luxembo Denmurk Finland	3,155	8,375 6,517 3,074	ŀ
	France Italy Neiberlands Norway	26,178 15,343 12,902 1,727		ŀ
	Saudi Árabis South Africa Spain Sweden	436 2,014 6,323 5,192	326 3,500 4,004 3,806	
i	Switzerland UK	12,212 23,321	10,462 17,042	

# Speed-up of computer product sales this year in West Europe

John Aczel discerns a sharp upward trend in the demand for systems

SALES of computer products have remained at a high level during the past 12 months and, for computer points from one country do not always match up with the imports for peripheral units amounted to over £700 million in puris from another.

imports for peripheral units amounted to over £700 million in 1982, of which s significant presence. psst 12 months and, for computer systems and peripheral equip-ment, the trend in demand has been sharply upward in most

European countries during 1982. In this sectur, the effects of the generol economic recession have been limited, and, for 1983, a further speed up in the market for computers is expected, especially for the smaller systems and

According to estimates published in the Mockintosh Yearbook, the overall market in Western Europe for complete systems and peripheral products amounted to over \$20,000 million (about £13,000 million) in 1982. Within that region, the UK, France and West Germsny have accounted for a significant share of the total, representing about 50%

The rate of growth in the various markets has varied, but the growth in the peripheral sector has been particularly rapid in most countries. And they forecast that overall demand will rise by at least 10% at constant prices, without taking into account the impact of inflation. Thus, in the current year, the overall market size could be at least \$22,000 million (about £15,000 million), though this figure may be on the low side.

figure may be on the low side.

These forecasts, however, should be treated with some care and may be quite conservative.
For one thing, Mackintnsh forecasts tend to be published in constant prices, and, if one builds in a feet prices and the second seco in a factor for inflation of at least 5 or 6%, this growth will be nearer

Mackintosh usually orrs on the conservative side and, on present trends, it is likely that an average rate of expansion of over 20% at current prices will be recorded in most of the European markets.

The throe major markets, France, the UK and West Ger-many, will be considered in turn, while some comments will also be devoted to the Netherlands. The Dutch market, relatively small, has been growing particularly fast in some sectors. It is quite a sophisticated one and has a number of special features.

umber of special features. In this analysis, several provisos should be made with regard to the statistical information. Some of the figures are not strictly comparable, as differences in definitions and in classifications do occur in the trade its listles for each country.

Disc storage units
Magnetic tape storage units
Other storage units

Printers
Readers and punches

Otlier perlpheral units

TABLE 2: BRITISH IMPORTS OF PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT BY PRODUCT GROUPS (BY VALUE)

On the whole, however, the figures contained in this survey are the best available at the moment, and should be of vuusiderable interest to marketing executives who fierce in the peripheral sector, and, are keen to assess the growth for their products in various Europesa

Naturally, the computer indus-try is n fast moving une, and condi-tions can change rapidly within a short time, so that any trends in sales have to be treated with some

The main emphasis will be on peripheral products which have been of particular significance in mosi of the European countries. As a rough estimate, periphersl products accounted for about 65% of the tots! market, with input and output units being of particular importance. In the official statistics, the classification for input and output units covers a wide range of products, such as printers, visual display units, terminals and

Competition has been quite according to the latest estimates, prices have dropped to below £600 per unit in 1982, as against nearly 1700 in the previous year. Even so, the US has continued to maintain lis dominance in this market, and for the peripheral sector as a

This share, however, has been challenged by other auppliera, as various countries have managed to increase their market position over the past 12 months.

whole, accounted for about 60% of

In particular, imports from West Germany have been quite strong and now account for nearly 10% of total peripheral imports. There has also been s big jump in imports from Ireland, and its sales have reached £18 million during

that this sector provides a useful indicator of the conditions prevailing in the peripheral field ss s

ducts has been at s high level in the UK, despite the prolonged effects of the recession. It is estimated that overall sales have grown by about 30% in 1982, with imported products playing a major earlier products playing a major part in the expansion of the British com-

puter sector.

It is difficult to make comparisons for the growth in imports, due to the delay in the publication of the trade statistics for the UK in 1981. As a result of the Clvil Service stellar flavore about imports. vice strike, figures about imports and exports are not readily available, but one can make some rough estimates about their growth, even though they may have to be altered when more in-

Another factor of some importance concerns movements in exchange rates, and, though all the relevant statistics have been converted into sterling to make the survey easier to understand, this factor can distort comparisons to some degree.

In the official stastics, there are also problems involved in the time span for the actual trade flows, so formation becomes available.

Jan-Dec 1982 2000 157,393 32,970 9,833 132,095 3,972 96,643 32,165 239,635

shown by Japanese manufacturers of peripheral equipment, and, according to latest estimates, their ssless have captured 3% of total

In certain fields, Japan has been particularly effective in its sales, and its deliveries of priolers have and its deliveries of priolers have been a strong feature of the British market. Nevertheless, Japan was still a long way behind American suppliers, though it is expected that the share of Japanese products in the peripheral field will increase markedly during 1983.

emphasis on sales to some of the Common Market countries.

many, France and Italy have been quite strong, and good progress has also been made in some of the

Britain has been expanding its sales oversess, and its total computer exports reached over £730 million for computer systems and peripheral units during 1982. This was up by 16% compared to the previous year, and British manufacturers have placed considerable

smaller Buropean countries. In addition, Britain has been exporting peripheral equipment to other regions of the world, especially to the Middle East, where British

ably the largest in Western Burope, and, according to Mackintosh Consultants, was valued at over \$4,000 million (nearly £2,700 million) in 1982. The overall growth of this market has been slower than anticipated due to the deepening recession in that country, but, on a consequence. try, but, on a conservative basis, the increase has been around 10%

those for peripheral units.
Thus deliveries of computer systems rose by 16% 10 over £380 million in 1982, while those for peripheral units increased by a

E 4: BRITISH EXPORTS OF T BY PRODUCT GROUPS (BY V	PERIPHERA	L' EQUIP-
orage units tic tape storage units torage units a said puniches display units erminals and consoles erripheral units	Jan-June 1982 £000 24,509 1,954 1,245 15,848 5,201 81,298 5,186 67,163	Jan-Dac 1982 2000 53,596 5,349 2,305 35,990 8,275 170,210 9,073 148,691

li is expected that British ex-ports will benefil considerably from the recent fall in sterling, and higher sales are likely to be achieved during the coming year. In sterling terms, the average price of exports have gone up, but this liss been largely counter-balanced by the fall in the value of the currency, so that British products are now much more compensive than they have been during the past 12

So far, the growth in British exports has not been as high as expected, and Britain's trade deficit in the computer sector has been

The market for computer products in West Germany is prob-

for West German demand during the past 12 months.

Trade flows have played an important part in the West German market, with lotal imports for complete systems and peripheral units amounting to nearly £950 million in 1982. This represented a growth of 8% compared to the previous year, but there has been a considerable difference between imports of complete systems and

more moderate omount, averaging 3% in value terms during 1982.

It is interesting to examine the trend in imports for input and output units, as they provide a useful indicator for demand in the peripheral agency. pheral sector as a whole. By value, these products rose by oearly 2% to just over £320 million, but in volume terms the increase has been much sharper. Thus, 393,000 input and output units came into West Germany during 1982 as against just over 300,000 in the previous year, representing a growth of 30% by volume.

This difference in growth rates has been due to the sharp fall in the price of imports. Price competition has been quite intense in the West German market, and, during 1982, the average price of a peripheral unit has dropped by about 20% to around £800.

The trend in exports for German manufacturers has been somewbat disappointing, and overall a computer products as a whole. complete systems it dropped

Continued on page 19

TUAL		_	
for For by nits	PORTS OF II PUT UNITS	RV M	AJOR ME)
P- 82 82 90 96 96 97 97 97 97 97 97	Argentina Austria Belgium-Luxembourg Canada Denmark France Germany (West) Ireland Italy Japan Spain Sweden Switzerland UK US	1982 No. 395 1,381 2,862 3,049 594 3,429 17,767 383 14,626 26,300 90 1,680 636 9,205 39,910	1981 No. 128 102 91 293 2,413 11,795 1,754 6,268 8,512 20 1,225 7,196 29,983

COMPEC EUROPE PREVIEW

# Japan strides ahead in France, Holland

TABLE 10: FRENCH IM.
PORTS OF INPUT-OUT.
PUT UNITS BY MAJOR
SUPPLIERS (BY VOLUME)

PORTS OF INPUT-OUT. PUT UNITS BY MAIN

MARKETS (BY VALUE)

TABLE 12: FRENCH EX-PORTS OF INPUT-OUT-PUT UNITS BY MAIN

MARKETS (BY VOLUME)
Jan-Dec Jan-De

PORTS OF INPUT-OUT-PUT UNITS BY MAJOR

SUPPLIERS (BY VALUE)

Jan. Nov Jan. No.

1982 19

2000 00

Argentina 1,552 9

Austria 632 2

2,800

9,153 8,708 33,088 24,549

3,202 1,479 52,727 36,490 50,027 15,871 8,281 1,387

exports were up by 10%. Undoubtedly, Germsn manu-faturers have been hindered by the high value of their currency, and this has made exporting more difficult than usual during this

The market for computer equip-ment has been growing rapidly in France over the past few years, and seconding to the Mackintosh estimates, the total size reached about \$3,600 million (about £2,400 million 10 1982. About three-quarters of the total has been ac-counted for by peripheral products, which have been expanding

During 1982, total imports of computer systems and peripherals jumped by 42% and amounted to all types of products have been on interply rising trend, but the peripheral equipment which has nisen by over 45% to over £500 million in 1982.

The latest figures reveal that deliveries of input and output devices use by over 50% to over £320 have some up by 80% to 350,000 year. units. Prices in this sectur have come down by about 10% during 1982 and averaged £900 by the end

American suppliers have cootinrepresented over 40% of the total. pared to 1981.

lively stable over the past two have been concentrated within the years, though other countries have Common Market countries, and been steeping up their deliveries msrkedly, psrticularly Italy, the UK and West Germany. In the esse of Japan, its sales have been relatively small, amounting to £12 million for input and output units, representing less than 5% of the

by volume has been quite dif-ferent, and in this field Japan has made strong strides. Ssles have tripled and reached 50,000 units during 1982. This was 14% of total roughly on par with deliveries by countries. By volume, Jspan con-tinued to be a long way behind the US, but if this growth is maintained over the next few years the gap between the twu cuuntries should close substantially in the

French exports have also risen, igh not as fast as imports. Their value for all systems and peripheral products amounted to £400 million in 1982 as against less than £300 million in the previous

French sales amounted to £150 million in 1982 as against £132 million in the previous year. By American suppliers have cootin-ued to domioste imports, and in sharp rise in deliveries abrosd and 1982 deliveries from that source 145,000 such units were sold over-

the major markets have consisted of West Germany, the UK and the Benelux countries. Ontside Europe, sales have been mixed. but some progress has been made input and output linits to South Africs, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

It is expected that France will perform hetter with its exports over the next 12 months, especially French franc will make their produets cheaper, particularly to some deliveries, and Jspan was of the key markets within the Common Market, Nevertheless, some of the major Eurupean during 1982, the trade gap countries. By volume, Japan continued to be a long way behind the sector as a whole, a deficit of over £330 million was reported for that year. This compared with around £230 million in the previous year, though it is possible that the imbalance will be smaller during the

The Dutch market has been expanding fast, and, in some sectors. sales have risen much more rapidly than in other European countries. According to Mackintosh, total demand for complete systems and peripheral equipment reached \$1.300 million (about £900 million) in 1982, and a growth of around 20% is forecast for this

market and has also acted as a springboard for sales to other European countries. Thus, it is not

TABLE 15: DUTCH EX-PORTS OF INPUT-OUT-PUT UNITS BY MAJOR MARKETS (BY VALUE) TABLE 16: DUTCH EX-PORTS OF INPUT-OUT-PUT UNITS BY MAJOR MARKETS (BY VOLUME)
Jan-Nov Jan-Nov
1992 1981

tiermany (West) Israel X,529 4,454 2.361 108 5,849 Porrugal South Africa 1,196 ~ 1,729 613 2,403 1,043 2,016 496 7,149 3,954 196 3,454 834

surprising that total imports to Holland jumped by 25% and reached £346 million for computer systems and peripheral equipment. A strong rise in peripheral products has been recorded during antiary to November 1982, with their value going up to £200 mil-lion as against £152 million in the

devices in the Duteli market has been particularly strong, and imports in this sector rose by 24% to reach £83 million in the first 11 months of 1982. The increase in deliveries by number was even over 70% was seen in this sector. with over 125,000 traits being delivered during last year.

Price competition have been Thus, the average price of imports for input and untput devices has been around £650 in 1982, as against over £900 for 1981. Significant inroads into the Dutch market have been made by Japanese ulacturers who were using Holland as a jumping off point for their sales drive into Europe. Thus, Japanese sales uf input and 2,874

output devices reached 26,300 mosts in the first 11 months of 1982, which was about triple that for the same period in 1981. Japan now ranks second only to

the US in terms of volume, though value, West Germane, Italy and the UK were still alread of Japan. By value, the US accounted for about 40% of total deliveries is: 1982, which was marginally up compared to the previous year. The Netherlands has been

stepping up its sales abroad, though it is not known what proportion consisted of re-exports and of products in transit to other parts of Europe. Thus, in the first 11 months of 1982, total exports in the conrouter sector amounted to over £180 million as against over £110 million in 1981.

Durch deliveries have gone tu a wide range of countries, but the main emphasis for Dutch sales has been within the Common Market countries. One of the key markets has been West Germany, where sales nearly duubled during 1982. while useful increases have also been reported in the UK, Italy and

# Pick-up gradual

FROM the survey of trends affecting major European countries, it is clear the computer industry has been quite buoyani during the past 12 months, despite the general economic problems now facing most of them. After all, during 1982 economic activity was very sluggish, and gross domestic product grew by only 0.2% in Western hurope.

For 1983, a slow improvement in overall growth is expected, even though the pick-up will be only a gradual one. According to the latest forecast, gross donrestic prodiret could increase by around 1% this year, and this will obviously have a beneficial effect on demand

for computer products.

Another factor is the recent drop in interest rates, and this will procapital equipment of various kinds, especially for computer pro-

mand for the computer sector are now more optimistic, and organi-sations like the International Data Corporation suggest that the growth in spending on computer products will rise by an average of 20% between 1981 and 1987 at constant prices.

Onite clearly, the Western European market for computer systems and peripherals is a linge provement in the economic climate during the current year. The computer industry can look forward to a high level of demand throughout the next 12 munths.



# Compec Europe exhibitors

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G10 Imunelec
G11 Wabash Tapes
G12-13 Commodore
G14 1 C Systems
G15 Trama - Lifting & Handling

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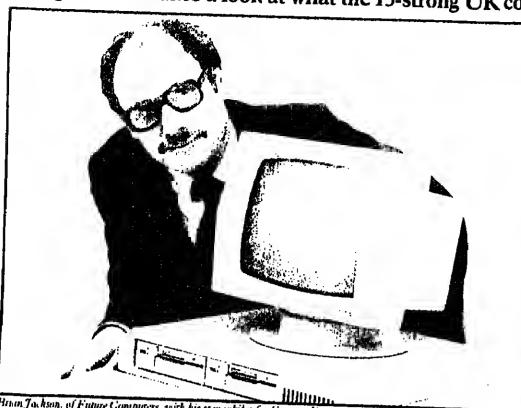
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Bram Jackson, of Future Computers, with his star exhibu for Compec Europe, the FX20 personal computer

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# IBM 'thinkalike' is star of Future at Brussels exhibition

A 13-STRONG contingent is crossing the water from the UK under the auspices of the Business Equipment Trade Association, for the third Compec Europe. A spintiff from the annual London Composite takes place at the Centre. pec, it takes place at the Centre International Rogier in Brussels

One of the British exhibitors is Future Computers, a two-year-old micro systems house based in Purley, Surrey, and managing director Brisn Jackson said his company's star exhibit would be the new FX20 personal cumputer which he described enthusiaatically ss on 1BM PC "thinkalike". Distribution of the FX20 has

its own local area network, will plug in iBM bus cards and run software written for the PC. Future Computers' machine was unched at the Which Computer? Show earlier this year and Jackson the company had made nn cffort to design a computer specifically for the European business

of its advantages over its more fsmous IBM rival, has a lot going

"It's much cheaper than the IBM PC at £1,875," said Jackson,

"and has twice the speed and twice

the memory and dise capacity with two 800K floppy discs." The FX20 will also arrive with

Future Computers, which produces other products in the FX range such as a terminal and a networking processor, already has European distributors but looks on Compec Europe as a shop window for those not yet exposed to its

Plessey Microsystems is in the BETA party too, showing its range bubbie memories, plus two

One of the micros, Syatem 19, is well established in the UK, and has Eritish Telecom as its biggest user. The other was partially Isunched at Compec UK last autumn as a 68000 board and memory. Knew 19, is a compect of the compect o nemory. Known as the System 68, his machine will be presented to the US market in Brussels with the addition of input/output ports and Winchester dise storage up to 140

operating system. System 19 on the other hand is based on multiple Z80s, runs under CP/M and uses CP/NOS, an internal communica-tions software package. Eritish rejecom uses these in a number of pplications - in directory en-

quiries, for example.

This is Piessey Microsyatems' first visit to Compec Europe and technical author Aian North explained the decision to exhibit this car as part of a recent effort to sell

Pericom Data Systems from Milton Keynes will arrive with its 7800 range of VDUs which have been selling since January 1982. The range offers high resolution graphics control and Includea a new micro edition of the 7800 which, according to Steve Williams, one of the sales team, can be upgraded to become either a micro

The 7800 raoge is manufactured by Pericom itself in Milton Keynes. The seven-year-old com-pany has been to Compec Europe before but does all its Continental selling through appointed distribu-

Also in the UK team is New-castle's Real Time Systems, the sole UK distributor for a US soft-ware company called Whitesmith.
Whitesmith produces compilers in the language C which will run native on the Digital Equipment's Vax and PDP/11 under any of DEC's operating systems plus

DEC's operating systems plus Unix versions 6 and 7. Massachusetts-based Whitea-mlth has also produced its own complete rewrite of Unix called Idris which runs on the 8080 and hands of systems analyats. CACI will also be showing a range of its software communications facilities for micros.

"Most of our customers have

... but neither method is the *cordon* bleu, says Joe Celko

THE structured programing revo-lution taught that the use of the GOTO statement would lead to code that resembled a plate of spa-

The only problem is that in finding this trouble spot in the old way, the structured programmers ful to see a trouble spot in the new

in place of the tangled web of labels and GOTO statements, structured programming converts use layer after layer of nested selection statements. This "lasigne code" is better than the spaghetti code" of the past, but

Selection statement come in sevtral flavours, the IF-THEN fls- let the execution fall through to the your, the IF-THBN-ELSE fisyour, and the CASE statement fayour. The first two use a Boolean expression as their control and the latter uses an integer expres-

The IF-THEN and IF-THEN-ELSE statements are very much alike, but the IF-THEN-ELSE is probably better, if you can use NULL statement, "No Op" or "Do Nothing" in your program-

ming language,
The use of the NULL statement allows the programmer to write the equivalent of an IF-THEN using IF-THEN-ELSE NULL. This makes you think about the ELSE clause; the program does not sim-ply fall through to the next atate-

with error messages while de-bug-sing, or real code when you see what you forgot. This is where a lot of exception handling and error correction is done in a program.

langling else" problem. Consider de piece of code: p THEN IF q THEN stmtl If could be read as either:

ELSE simt21

FQTHEN stmtl ELSE stmt2

Same San San Co.

ment, in spite of the equivalence. The must likely to be executed code should be in the -THEN clause and the exceptional or error handling code should be in the -ELSE clause. Try reading a program where the opposite ment was used and see if you

don't agree.
Patching a program in a esrdinput batch system can lead to
aome strange code. Consider the two cards next to each other in the

q THEN stmtl ELSE stmt2; The resson they are there is tha the reason they are there is that
the programmer duplicated the
first card, and re-punched only the
columns he needed to make the
second card. He could have
punched a single card reading:
IF (p OR q) THEN stmt ELSE

He is a two-finger typist and a little lazy, so he wanted to get his patch in fast and lesve. It would have been better to re-punch the whole card, since both the users and the compiler would have less

In trying to pull off the layers of lassgne, you often must trade deep nesting for complex Ecolean ex-

This approach also solves the a hard time with Boolean algebra - 20% or more of all bugs in coding are in Eoolean expressions. Only a mathematician or a lawyer can be comfortable with complex Booleans. The good part is that compilers can optimise Boolean expressions and could give you a

gain in speed.

It is clear that the clauses of an IF-THEN-ELSE statement can be swapped, if the Boolean control is negated. That is: IF p THEN strat! ELSE strat2;

also used by some optimising com-

ELSE stmt2; is equivalent to (pANDq) ELSE stmt2;

one of the clauses is an implicit NULL statement hidden in an IF-

is that there are many ways to gen-erate a program from a single deci-sing table. This is a blessing in one way because it means that a declsion table representa all possible valid programa. Ey having the decision table in the program documentation, we can re-structure the

THBN stmtl ELSE stmt2

(p OR q)
THEN stmt l ELSE stmt2; hard to see actusl practice because

Once the levels of nesting have been flattened out a bit, then the expression can be reduced by using Boolean algebra and a little

Boolean algebra can be

program should anything change without baying to mess with horri-ble nested IF-THEN-ELSE state-The bad part is that the number of possible generated statements is huge. If there are no conditions. then you have a possible ways to pick the highest level control ex-pression. Each of the two branches of the highest level control expression has (n-I) possible control expressions. And so nn and so nn. For two conditions this is simply two possible arrangements and three conditions have 12 possible

allow one to be removed.

but it needs to be revived. Once the decision table is set up, the programmer can optimise it and eheck it for contradiction and re-

dundancy with a decision table

The quick way to convert the

table to code is to pick one condi-

tion and use It as the control ex-

pression in an IF-THEN-ELSE

atatement. The two branches of the IF-THEN-HLSE statement are sub-decision tables made up the conditions and actions for

which that condition Is TRUE and

This procedure is continued for each sub-table until the entire decision table has been converted in a nest of IF-THEN-ELSE state-

FALSE respectively.

arrangements. But four conditions have 576 possible arrangements. It gets even worse as n gets bigger.

There are procedures which will provide good results most, but not all, of the time. The idea of them is

pick a pivot condition which has the smallest number of "don't care" entries in it. The generated code will use the smallest number of Boolean ex-

pressions to arrive at an action.

monsense has to come from knnwledge of the code. For example, knnwing if two condi-tions include or exclude each other ments which use the same control condition at each level nesting. A human being would tend tu write code that way just because it would can allow them to be cumbined or look symmetric and pleasing to the The best spproach to really tricky logic is to use a decision table. This has become u instart, eye. Once the code has been genercan be applied to flatten it ou

LIAMPUIER VOLKER PAINTYS 1293 C

As s rule of thumb, a huma being can mentally handle only five things at one time, Try and keep the lasagne driwn to three or

(a) Here is a simple decision table, where 0 means "don't care", 1 "FALSE", with conditions C1, C2 and C3, and uutcomes of state-ments S1, S2 and S3. It can be converted to code by inspection

C1: C2: C3:	+1 -1 0	- l l 0	+1 +1	+1 -1
	SI	SZ	S3	<b>S</b> 4

(b) it first pivots on enndition C2

THEN CI: 0 0 +1 -I S3 S4

IF C2 THEN IF C3 THEN S3 ELSE S4 ELSE IF CI THEN SI ELSE SZ A human being might have generated this "lassgne" code from the same program specification. The reason that a human being would turn out such code is that it lies a nice symetry and the conditions appear in the order that they were identified.

That is, Cl is at the first level. C2 is at the second level and C3 is at third level. Would you see that these two blocks of code are equi-

valent by inspection? THEN IF C2 THE IFC3 THEN S3 ELSE S4

ELSE SI ELSE IF C2 THEN IF C3 THEN S3 ELSE

ELSE SZ.

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Lasagne

tastier than

code is

up from one workstation to some-Also on the stand will be Radpunch, a system that prepares and verifies numerically controlled

an operating system that doesn't end with the letters 'ix'," be said.

Real Time, whose research and development has recently more

to the Isle of Msn, has sold i

Tony Billet, is used in general m-This is Raden's first trip to Compec Europe and, like Plesse Microsystems, the visit is part of 8 plan to hit the European market

at Europe," asid Billet, "and have opened two German offices this year - one near Cologne and one near Hamburg."
The exhibition circuit around

Europe Ia hotting up. A large number of exhibitors in Brussels will have come almost straight from the Hanover Pair, which ended only last week.

time at both. So will Hewlett Packard, which says all its departments will be taking part in the Brussels show. On the stand will be the larger computers, high resoution plotters, the HP persona computer, logic and protocol sna "More or less all our products will be there," said a spokeswomen from Hewlett Packard's Brussek

Historically Compee is largely dedicated to peripherals, so there will be a veritable swarm of com-

terminal, a graphics terminal or a
Prestei receiver.

The 7800 raoge is manufactured
by Pericom itself In Milton

CACI, the giant multinations software house and consultancy, h unveiling a secret new software product known at present as the Analyata' Workbench. Details, according to Urban Vanden Bossche, manager of CACI's Belgian operation, are still under wraps, but the product is designed to combat the age-old DP problem of devoting 70% of budgets to maintenance and repair, while

only 30% goes on development. CACI says the solution is in the

63000 processors and on the PDP/II. The next rejease of software, says Real Time, ahould see Idris available for Vax machines.

At Compec: Europe Real Time Systems will be pushing the C promore than 100 data processing staff," said Vanden Bossche, "and the sort of difficulties they encounter these days are brought about by the problem of ideouily The finsl advantage is that the program is divided into very elear modules of code. The system can build overlays for the -THEN The CASE statement is a fairi new tool, invented by C. A. R. Hosre. PL/I and Pascsl support it, but most programming languages do not. The basic case statement picks one and only one statement from a numbered list and executes The control is an integer value

and some provision is made for an integer value which is not an index in the list. Some implementations

next statement and some have sn CASE statement is so rare. The

lack of it forces the program write chains of nested IF-THEN-ELSE statements, like this: IF (p=1) THBN simd

ELSE IF (p=2) THEN simt2

ELSE IF (p=3) THEN simt3

ELSE IF (p=4) THEN simt4

Instead of

The NULL can be replaced

THEN BEGIN IF q THEN stmti

THEN BEGIN

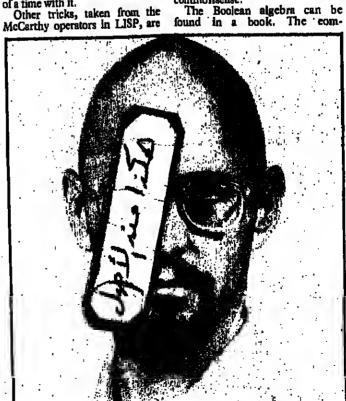
Algol 60 took the second appropriate is equivalent to:

Algol 60 took the second appropriate is equivalent to:

IF (NOT p)THEN strat2 ELSE state is equivalent to:

IF (NOT p)THEN strat2 ELSE state is equivalent to:

I would like to conjecture that there is a normal, expected arrangement for a human being to read an IF-THEN-ELSE state.

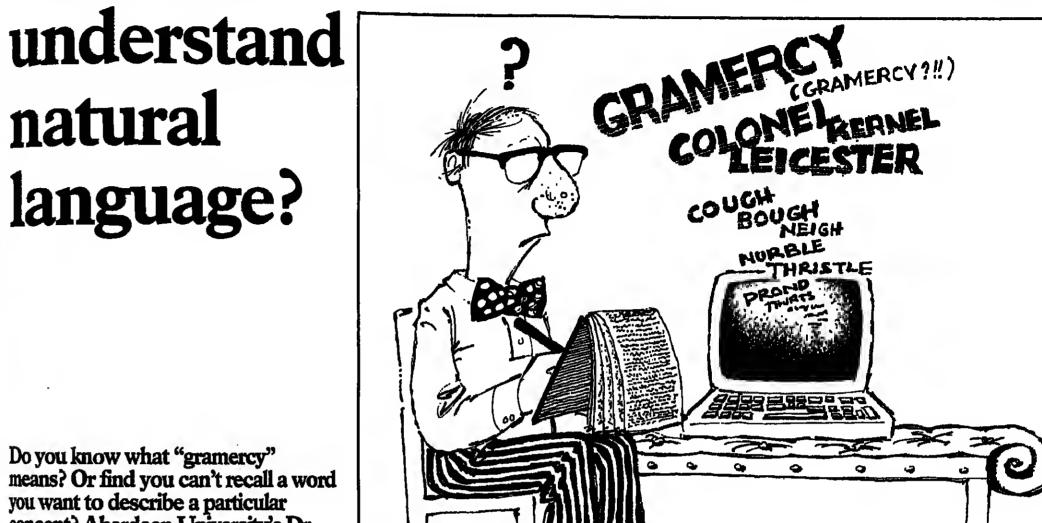


Structured programmers fail to see a wouble spot in a new way. The algorithms will not generate The constitutes of the destinated in the first of the control of t

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# Can psychology help computers to

# natural language?



Do you know what "gramercy" means? Or find you can't recall a word you want to describe a particular concept? Aberdeen University's Dr Kenneth Gilhooly outlines a project to apply human psychological processes to research in artificial intelligence.

BOTH artificial intelligence and psychology have a strong interest in natural language processing. The ultimate goal for artificial intelligence research on natural language is to develop a computer system that can act ss though it understood natural language input (idealize the natural language input). Formation on word spelling, pronunciation and meaning (as in patterns of impairment have also been reported, eg failing to read useful sour concrete words while retaining the ability to read abstract words; resulting the access to other types of information (eg meaning). It is not content words (eg "concept"). Many other, often surprising, patterns of impairment have also concrete words while retaining the ability to read abstract words; resulting to read useful source triple of information (eg meaning). language is to develop a computer system that can act se though it understood natural language input (ideally in spoken form) and produce natural language outputs in spoken or visible form.

The goal for the psychology of language, on the other hand, is to understand how humans carry out their everyday linguistic tasks. Clearly, there is potential for some cross-fertilisation between psychology and artificial language in the

language area.

I wish to outline a project involving the computer modelling of human vocabulary abilities; although the main thrust of my work is psychological, it is boped that it may have implications for artificial intelligence

practical amplications for artificial intelligence and possibly some practical applications.

Hitherto, artificial intelligence efforts in this area have focused mainly on the large-scale problems of understanding continuous linguistic inputs, usually in limited environments.

On the other hand, psychologiention to the smaller scale prob-lems of how isolated verbal inputs make contact with internal repre-sentations and lead ultimately to observable outputs (eg reading a single visually presented word

As a typical psychologist, my interests in this area have focused on these "miero" questions. However, I believe that these questions will have to be faced eventually by artificial intelligence programs for natural language processing.

processing.

If the artificial intelligence solution borrows from studies of human processes, what might it be like? To help answer this question I will briefly review the highlights of human studies in this area.

Many psychologists think that the individual's yocabulary ability is underlain by a "mental lexicon," the entries of which contain in-

type of information (eg pronunciation) will guarantee access to other
types of information (eg meaning).
An example here might be
knowing that "gramercy" is a
word and knowing its pronunciation but being unable to retrieve a
meaning for it. Another example
would be having a concept in mind but being temporarily unable to locate the phonological form of the desired word (le the "tip-of-the-

tongue" phenomenon).
Psychologists have devoted con-Psychologists have devoted con-siderable research to questions of access and organisation in the mental lexicon. That there is a real problem here is perhaps indicated by estimates of the size and effi-

ciency of the lexicon.

Reasonably well-educated adults have been estimated to know 75,000 different words and can recognise any one of them in spoken or written form very rapidly, similarly, in speech and writing, appropriate words are generally retrieved at a rapid rate. Since each word is associated with two different output codes (spoken and put codes, clearly the amount of information involved is very large.

Clues to the structure and function of the mental lexicon in humans have come from a variety of (mainly) single word tasks pre-sented both in normal literate subjects and to brain damaged patients suffering from a range of

language disorders.

The most striking evidence comes from the very specific losses of function seen in certain clinical conditions. For example, some conditions.

loss of comprehension of those words. These and other reports of "dissociations" of function are useful sources of evidence

Although there are a number of theories, the question of exactly how information in the mental lexicon is structured and accessed is still open



also with some of the abstract GILHOOLY. Psychologist interested in artificial intelligence.

At present, it is intended that there will be three input access files corresponding to written (graphemic), phonological and instudies of both brain-damaged and normal subjects is that although information in the mental lexicon meanings is highly compartmenta-lised, numerous routes exist be-tween the different forms of in-formation. This variety of ternally originating semantic cues.
The graphemic input access file, for example, would take a spelled-out word as input and yield the intercommunications helps the system cope with loss of some addresses of correspond

damage or disease.

Although there are a number of theories, the question of exactly how information in the mental lexstill an open one. My current re-search is aimed at this question and involves developing a compu-ter model that will embody a number of ideas in the psychologi-

I want to see how well the model will cope with a variety of tasks when it has a large and expanding vocabulary. The main task to be tackled initially will be that of single word naming in which a phonological code is to be output

given a spelled-out word as input.

A particular point of psychological interest will be whether "disaling" different parts of the of various groups of braindamaged humans. If so, then the underlying theory embodied in the

underlying theory embodied in the program would be supported.

The organisation of the program will be modular. This will ease program construction and should allow for a variety of functional discorptions when simulating in dissociations when simulating lan-guage disorders. Also, the incorporation of new items into the system will be made easier by a modular

organisation.
"Content" Informating pertaining to a given word will be elearly distinguished from "address" in-formation. At least three forms of 'content' information will be

atored per word, viz spelling, sound (phonology) and meaning. The three types of information will be located in three different stores. Entry to each store will be via address codes. The address codes will be located in a number

data stores.

The information in the three

"content" stores would be as fol-lows. The graphemic code would simply be a letter code or numeric equivalent. Phonology would be coded numerically in 1:1 correspondence to the Internations Phonetie Association scheme. In the semantic store it is proposed to giving its syntactic status and se-mantic domain, followed by codes giving values on the semantic fea-

tures relevant to its domain. Once an initial set of words has been defined to the system, it may grow by defining new words in terms of already defined words. For example, once the system has had "small", "mountain" and "lake" defined explicitly by the equalling a

As well as being of psychological interest as a model of human processes could this project have any foresecable applications in the long-term? One possibility is that a version of the final system could be incorporated as a helpful thesaurus

> For example, the semantic store could be used to generate words of similar or contrasting meanings to. a given probe word.

Also, a user's "tip-of-the-tongue" problems might be sided by providing the system with various relevant words (eg "small, green, hairy, exotle, juicy, fruit

") as input in an attempt to retrieve target words (eg the fruit name "kiwi").

The phonological store could be used to supply the user with rbymes or alliterations as desired.

Experts can't decide if the future's rosy or Orwellian

Over 700 people heard professionals' opinions at a symposium on computer culture. Howard Karten reports

ISSUES of privacy, potential mass unemployment, the future of intellectuals, and other computer-related topics were the order of the day in New York early this month, as some of the most widely known computer experts and specialista from several disciplines gathered to discuss the effect of computers. treated to several rosy outlooks, some Orwellian nightmares, and a squabbling panel of artificial intelligencers, complete with name calling and considerations of whether electric blanket cuntrols

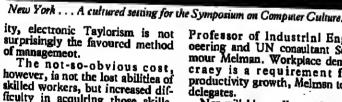
More than 700 people turned out to hear a variety of experts speak at the Symposium on Com-puter Culture sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences, a non-profit making educational and cultural organisation. The academy's membership consists of more than 45,000 scientiats from the US and 84 other countries, representing every scientific disci

Harley Shaiken, a Massachu-setts Institute of Technology re-search fellow io the MIT program in Science, Technology and Society and adviser on automation policy to several public, private and labour organisations, observed that defining productivity as output per unit of input was too restrictive. Rather, he said, productivity should be defined as the opportunity to be productive for all who want to work.

Workplace automation can be viewed as a continuum, Shaiken believes. At one end is what he called "clectrooic Taylorism," after F. W. Taylor, the father of time and motion studies circa ity, electronic Taylorism is not 1911. Electronic Taylorism consurprisingly the favoured method of the surprisingly the sur 1911. Electronic Taylorism con-sists of centralised command of the workplace (e.g. factory or shop floor), deskilling of workers, and increased machine pacing of

At the other end are what Shaiken called human centred systems, which are decentralised, take advantage of worker erentivity, and feature optimal interaction of people and computers irrespec-

Since engineers are biased in favour of control and predictabil-



however, is not the lost abilities of skilled workers, but increased difficulty in acquiring those skilla, since eventually there is going to be no one to become apprenticed to. Removing a worker's skill and judgment from a job leads to an erosion of the quality of work life,

is at an end, occording to Columbia University (New York)

mour Melman. Workplace democraey is a requirement for Nor will blue collar workera be

the only ones to be affected.

"Knowledge technology," in the form of artificially-intelligeot expert systems, will soon begin to affect professionals such as doctors

pert systems is growing simost daily, according to Stanford Uni-versity's Edward Felgenbaum, pioneer in artificial intelligence and computer science. Felgen-baum, who is chairman of the Stanford Computer Science De-partment and sutbor of several books in the field, observed that some current efforts in artificial intelligence are deliver by the the intelligence are driven by the demands placed on knowledge workers in fields which are so vast, and so complex, that "job excelence requires a scope of

continuing education." In these fields, good problem solving requires several experts since no one person has all the needed expertise. Medicine and engineering are good examples, and in some areas, well-known expert systems, such as the Mycin-diagnostic system at Stanford, have performed as well as or better than humans.

than humans. The development of expert of systems is currently being impeded by the lack of really good, high-speed specialised computers.

However, several countries are working to remedy this altraston However, several couotries are working to remedy this situation. Examples are the work on intelligent knowledge-based systems (IBKS) in the UK, the KIPS (Knowledge Informatioo Processing Systems) in Japan, and work of interest in magic.

representation of the property of the property of the

on an advanced artificial lotelligen architectures (AAIS) currently

Pamela McCorduck, a journal ist, science writer, and Columbia University (New York) lecturer, observed that no one truly knows whether the advent of expert systems will herald a new goldeo sge or something more sinister. Io the past, mechanical amplifica-tions of human abilities, such as electrification and motor cars have brought about wholly unforescea-ble changes, she noted.

On the positive side, the sevent expert systems could make knowledge more democratic, since themselves — are easily replicated and accessible. Since constructing extensive interviewing into thought and iogical processes of experts, psychologists are sure to learn more about human cognition and how people reason, McCorduck noted.

On the negative side, if monopoly on expert systems could cause an undesirable concentration

of power in some handa.

Unlike many symposia oo computers, which tend to draw heavily from those involved in the compu-ter industry, this one drew from a broad spectrum of workers. NYAS spokesmen said every state in the US and some 46 foreign countries were represented. Some of the professionals who turned out for the conference were college physicist, law professor, professional negotiator, internist, and many people working in the humanities

The later group could draw comfort from McCorduck's obser-

machines in awe and reverence and erhaps a certain amount of fear," she prophesled. There is at least one iodication, at least in the US, that McCorduck may not be far off the mark - in recent years, astro-

will be published as the annals of The New York Academy of Sciences (2 Bast 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021), sround De-

rightened about this delogy has seemed to gain in popular-ity and number of followers. The audience for an afternoon

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**SPECIALISTS** 

VIEWDATA TERMINALS

panel discussing srtificial intelli-gence and human thinking was treated to a rare display of 2ca-demic antagonism. MIT's Marvin

Minsky, who earlier in the

afternoon delivered an address

with the characteristically modest

more important than anything else", labelled "idiotic" a proposal about artificial intelligence put forth by co-panellist John Searle, a University of Californis (Berkeley) philosophy are for the proposal search and the search are for the se

Minsky is highly optimize about the impact of computers a society and oo the shifty of humaos to duplicate most

processes, given complete in-

processes function, but his scrappy attitude on the panel and later in a

Press conference seemed to several

of the journalists arrogant and perhaps less than collegial.

One of the points made by Searle was that although it is possible to coostruct a machine that

"appears to think", "many people believe to be demonstrably fake the proposition that computer

have thought processes."
A good deal of the panel discus-

sion seemed especially shattas a obscure — a university physic

professor seated next to this re-porter seemed hard-pressed to

contain his laughter at the going-on. "It's a delightful fantasy world they're talking about," be noted.

Co-panellist Seymour Paper, creater of the Logo language and a colleague of Minsky's at the MIT

Artificial Intelligence Lab, ob-served that "there will be

machines that will be better at your job than you are", such as medicine, picking stocks, or the

travel agent business - and that

people ought rightly to be

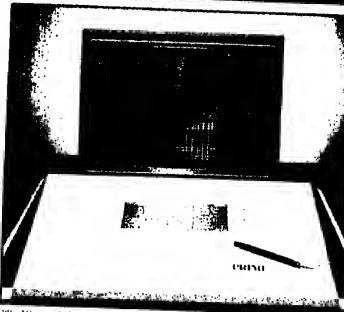
"Why computer science is

patients display reading errors and difficulties only with long words or with words that have irregular spellings (eg "colonel"); while other patients cannot read about function words but can read content words; and still others have reading difficulties, not only with pronounceable non-words (eg

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The Electronic Design Management System from Prime Computer.

# Easy-to-use system for electronic design

sign Management System, described as the first computer aided engineering and design system to cover every sspect of the design of digital circuits from initial concept through analysis and simulation to final design in one integrated

EDMS has been designed to schieve overall improvements in product quality and costs and in the speed of the product de-

velopment cycle.

It is said to be easy to use and requires no programming experience. It runs on Prime computers and colour graphics workstations and features a component library, a design database, editing, report writing, electronic design utilities plus interfaces to many commonly used CAE application software

parkages, Based on Prime's database man-agement system, DBMS, it also incorporates many controls and tools required by project man-

To develop schematics with HDMS the engineer selects a page format and chooses components from the library. Non-graphic in-

PRIME Computer has launched in the UK the PDMS Electronic Dealphanumeric terminals. The inand verified. Information from the design database plus the schematic design database plus the schematic panies or multiple operations. For information is automatically orga-nised into workfiles, and when a dingram is complete all data i automatically verified before being stored in the database

In addition to all the data man-agement facilities for CAE, BDMS includes interfaces to link it with commonly used design and analysis software. Digital designs in EDMS can thus be easily aimulated to verify feasibility and theo board, wire wrap board or integrated circuit layouts witbout re-entering data. Final drawings can be produced and modified in a

The price of a typical configura-tion with EDMS software, eight graphics workstations, 24 alphaou-meric terminals, a Prime 750 with four Mbytes of main memory and two 300 Mbytes dies demory and two 300 Mbyte disc drives would

Seven-track

that a cartridge manufacturer has

offered upwards compatibility be-

tweeo successive generations of ita transports, says Kennedy. Cartridge tapes generated on the 6400 bpi Kennedy Model 6450 and 6455 drives can be read by the seventrack 10,000 bpi 6470 mechanism without need for modification or realignment of the bend.

Kennedy International (CW), McGraw Hill House, Shoppen-hangers Road, Maidenhead, Berks, Tell (0628) 73939.

cartridge

transport

# Document and label printers

TWO high-quality, special purpose printers first shown in the UK at Compec '82, are now commercially available from Pragma. Both are made by IIR, France.

The IBR 310 document printer features accurate printing on paper up to A4 size, and will automatically adjust to forms up to 2.5 monthick. Particularly suitable for liandling pass-books, statements and letters, this machine also lias a tally role providing blind copies as required. The nine-needle hesd prints a full range of characters at speeds up to 160 characters are second, and interface is either eaynchronous sorial (V24-or RS232C) or Centronics parallel. The IBR 320 is e special purpose, single sheet printer, intended for shelf labelilles. KENNEDY has launched the Model 6470, a seven-track car-

pose, single sheet printer, intended for shelf labelling and similar operationa. Ita major feature is accurate bar-code printing, and the nine-needle head printing, and the nine-needle head printing, according to bar-code typo, plus 64 Ascii characters. Documenta can measure from 25 to 110mm in according to bar-code type, plus 64
Ascii characters. Documenta can
measure from 25 to 110mm in width, with minimum and maximum length of 60mm and 290mm respectively and an automatic cutting facility is available.

Onc-off list prices are £3,286 for the 1ER 310 and £3,841 for the 1ER 320.

Pragma (CW), Pragma Housa, Weirvale Industrial Estate, Den-ham Way, Rickmansworth, Hert-fordshire WD3 2RL. Telephono: (0923) 720326,

# **NCR** accounts for up to 200 hotel guests

FRONT desk accounting around £6,900, including softsystem called Quicksilver for use in hotels with up to 200 rooms has been released by NCR. Essentially a powerful computer programmed to operate as simply as a cash regis-ter, Quicksilver also provides vital anagement information, producing instant reports on room status, suest accounts and necupancy sta-

The system comes as a freestanding terminal with full type-writer keyboard, a visual display screen, 27 programmable multi-function bear. function keys, a slip receipt and journal printer, and integrated digital cassette. Up to two local or remote cash drawers are available as options. Quicksilver provides for

small to ntedium-sized hotel the same organisational and financial

A memory based room table holds information for up to about 200 rooms, and each room may have up to two folios attached to it The guest accounting function

operates from registration to check-out, and is started by key-ing in a room number which is automstically checked against the room table for availability. When a room is allocated, a new guest folio is headed up and the cashier indi-cates whether it will be the stan-dard room rate, an adjusted one or a apecial arrangement.

The system has been designed so that hotel groups can use common stationers NCR (CW), 206 Marylobone Road, Loadon NW1 6LY. Tel: 01-388 8244. Desk linked by a 90° connector. The new modular ahelving in the background cao be adapted to store printout binders, disc packs, tapes, IBM magazines and disc

cartridges.
Ofrex (CW), Ofrex House,
Stepben Street, London W1A
1EA. Tel: 01-636 3686.



Office range

THE new colour co-ordinated Ofrex range of modular office furniture and filing systems comprises Interchangeable components de-signed to provide a variety of different system layouts to suit parti-cular office tasks. Illustrated above is the Data Desk and smaller VDU

The display is of a high quality with a monitor which has 24 geometry on all sides, 10% linearity 20MHz bandwidth, 19.2KHz horizontal frequency and low power dissipation.

power dissipation.

The 12-incb, P31 phosphor, anti-glare screen displays 24 lines of 80 columns plus a 25th satus line. Characters are formed using 1 TV raster scan technique and the format is 7×9 dot matrix with ormat is 7×9 dot matrix with 9×12 resolution. Spacing of two dots between characters and thee lines between rows provide legible, crisp character.

The terminal, known ss the VI-4100, incorporates full editing Typical pricing for the VT-4100

at the quantity six to 19 feed is £322. Delivery averages 30 days.

Data Deaign Techniquer (CW), 68/70 Tewin Road, Wel-wyn Garden City, Herts. Tel-Welwyn Garden 34774.



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PRODUCTS

# Controllers offer powerful local graphics

SINTROM has launched in the UK two controllers from Raster Technologies that offer graphics system designers powerful local graphics capability as well as unique application transportability between 500 and 1,000-line graph-

is systems. The first system, the Model One/20 controller, has local intelligence and advanced multiproces-sor architecture to provide fast resor architecture to provide tast response for interactive applications. It supports up to 24 image memory planes and allows simultaneous display of more than 16 million colours. It allows a user to display a full 1024x1024 image on a low cost 512x512 line monitor and a method of dual mode image addiessing provides automatic

intialiasing.
The second system, the Model 00e/40, which is RS343C compati-ble, is designed to provide high display quality at low cost, supporting image memory configurations from 1024x1024 x 1-bit to 1024x1024 x six bits. It supporta six memory planes and allows the simultaneous display of 64 colours from a palette of 16 million

Both the Model One/40 and the Model One/20 are dual mode compathle to allow the user to in-terchange between lower cost, lower resolution graphica output and the higher 1024x1024 graphics

Using a single command, the user can select whether to display image memory as a full 1024x1024 array or as a 512x512 window into memory. This application

Sin enclosure or mounted in a stan-dard 19in rack, have local intelli-gence and can be used with a dumb terminal or work without a ADDRESSING mail with labels bost computer if necessary. They have over 100 graphic commands and integrated de-bug-

Graphics macros give easy acess
to local 16-bit microprocessor
power using simple Fortran
subroutine calls. A broad choice of and Fortran library are available.

Sintrom Electronics (CW), 14 Arkwright Road, Reading, Berk-ahire RG2 OLS. Tel: (0734) 875464.

software package to run with both 500 and 1,000 line monitors.

The central processors of the Model One/20 and Model One/40

bytes of user-programmable RAM. They can be used with vir-tually any 16 or 32-bit romputer

system, says Sintrom, and feature

a multiple processor design to re-

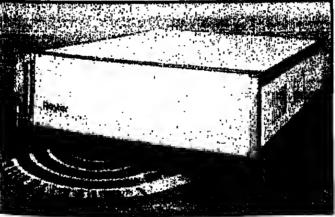
lieve the host computer from such tasks as interactive menu manage-

ment, graphic input device control and other real time tasks. By partitioning graphics tasks

between the host computer and the Model One they improve overall system performance and increase

Both systems, which come in

oprocessors configured with llobytes of PROM and 32 kilo-



Rasser Technologies Model One display controller.

# Multi-media system plots on 44in wide film

THE 8244F multi-media electros-tatic plotter, which piots on 44-iach wide film and paper, has been hunched in the UK by Versatec. This allows users to make major savings by using opaque or quick-look" preliminary clear or matte finish films for overlays, duplicating and final plot production, says Versatec.
The plotter is particularly suited to CAD. CAD, sciamic work, mapping and

francaction document, general

Printer developed for

micro business systems

A PRINTER specifically developed for microcomputer business systems has been added to the tange distributed by Datac.

The Centronics 159 has a push ractor feed with pulling friction rollers. Its five part forms capability variable rop-of-form and forms tear-off within one inch of top-of-form make the 159 suitable for transaction document general

business and data processing appli-cadons, says Datac. Altrineham, Ches bire, WA14 5TN. Tel: 061-941 2361

business graphics.

The 8244F piots on 44-inch wide media at ½ inch (i.27cm) per second to draw 8.5 square feet per second to draw 5.3 square second to draw 5.3 square second to draw 5.3 square second per minute and paper. It prints 538 column lines wide at 240 lines per minute

The 8244F plotter is priced at 240 lines and OFM

(0635) 42421.

low-priced, fast and quiet.
Datae Ltd (CW), Tudor Road



The Danistress AP10 Automatic Addresser from Kemp Application Sales

# Turning the computer into an automatic addressing machine

has always been a time-consuming and expensive operation because of the double operation required. Kemp Application Sales claims to have overcome this problem with the introduction of the Datadress AP10 Automatic Addresser – a peripheral that is said to turn any

The Datadress AP10 is capable of direct printing up to 10,000 addresses an bour of all kinds of malled items which need not be sorted. Further, it offers unlimited to be in the capability of t election and will print additional nformation if necessary.

The direct printing operation is effected by line offset drypoint typeheads (eight maximum), which eliminate any embosslog, liquid inks, spirit solvents, spray ink or wet glue. Inatead, a print ribbon

Datadress RS/IDPIt) is also provided with modern access methods runs under each of the drypoint typcheads to give a direct, clean and dry addreasing operation fur changing, erasing and adding address data. This includes co-orimilar to that of a typewriter. If necessary, the Datadress dination with other data files, storage, versatile file control and call-

AP10 printer can be supplemented by an RS10 microcomputer and the DP10 keyboard with visual Ing of statistical information. Automatic match coding gives display unit. These, with the Lo-gomail software package will proevery recorded address its nwn code with which it can be activvide an independent computer ated, so that it can be selected and if necessary brought to the display in a fraction of a second. iddressing system.
The Datadress RS/DP10 has

built-in operating instructions, which make it simple to use. From the point of switch-on, all opera-With the introduction of the Datadress, KAS maintains that it is now possible for the many com-panies with bulk mail addressing ons occur in dialogue form to guide the operator step-by-atep. A protection facility guards against faulty operation — for example, problems to exploit the modern methods of data processing.

stops are programmed into the system which automatically prevents double addresses from being entered. Kemp Application Sales (CW), 46/50 Coombe Roed, New Mal-den, Surrey KT3 4QJ, Teli 01-942 2248,

# **Fast** storage device

THE UK launch of the Mode 7200 carrindge tape drive, a high eapacity, high speed storage device designed to provide data back-up and interchange functions for the Black llox microcomputer systems using high capacity Winchester hard disc drives, is announced by

The free standing unit houses . streamer tape drive, an 1 5 microprocessor based controller formatter and a dual voltage power apply. The drive is interfaced via in IEEE 488 interface bus

Two models of the drive are wailable, storing 10 and 20 megabytes respectively, on industry standard beingh magnetic tape armidges.

The drive operates in a streaming mode which chinaies the interblock gaps and thus allows almost all of the magnetic tape to be used for data storage.

All data written by the drive is checked for integrity and any in-correct or marginal data is rewritterrect or marginal data is fewra-ten without stopping the drive operation, and written data is verified byte-by byte with the in-put dats.

The drive establishes a high level of data integrity by setting a high read-while write threshold,

Data is written in the standard

Ansi GCR code to provide maximum separation between dsta bandwidth and speed variation bandwidth. Data written on a 10megabyte drive can be read on a

megabyte drive can be read on a 20-megabyte drive.

The price of the Model 7200 cartridge tape drive is £1,750 for the 10-megabyte model and £2,250 for the 20-megabyte unit.

Rair recently entered into a joint venture with ICL to manufacture and market its Black Box 3-30 microcomputer system on a

microcomputer system on a worldwide basis as the ICL Personal Computer.

Rair (CW), 6-9 Upper St Mar-tin'e Lane, Lnndnn WC2 9EQ. Tel: 01-836 692 I.

## **Economic** point-to-point keyboard data links

POINT-TO-POINT data commu-nications over broadband coaxial cable networks can be achieved economically with a new RF Data Modern from 3M.

Modem from 3M.

Providing a serial R5232C data link for terminals and printera, the modem, Model 925/926, can be incorporated in fully loaded CATV networks with other data modema, audio modems and video distributioo systems. It operates asynchronously in full or half duplex modes at up to 9,600 bits/sec. The RTS/CTS delay time is fixed et 500 microseconds.

Employing the new modem in pairs, up to 75 point-to-point, full duplex data links can be established within the spectrum of two CATV channels, with a possible total of 225 links.

The Generonics 159 which prims at 150chps:

# 63-key micro is launched

A LOW profile, microproceasor-based keyboard, the AKL81-042, has been introduced by Alpha-

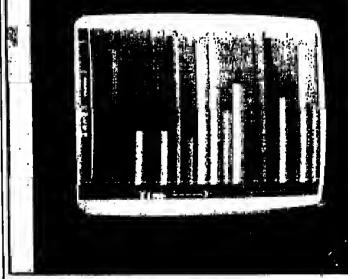
Designed and manufactured in the UK, it is a full travel, 63-key owerty keyboard with ECS, TAB, CAPS, LOCK, CTRL, SHIFT,

The on-board microprocessor gives flexibility to terminal designers. N-key rollover is a atan-

a single 5V DC, 200mA power supply. Both parallel and TTL level serial data outputs are standard dard.
Serial data rate is 1,200 baud with a format of one start bit, eight data bits (low parity) and one stop

Alphameric Keyboards (CW), Manor Wsy, Old Woking, Sur-rey. Tel: (04862) 71555:

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The 14-inch colour monitor from USI International.

# Colour monitor is easy on the user's eyes

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The new monitor eliminates the two step process of cooverting the computer's video signal to a form that a television can receive and the subsequent conversion within the television set back to a pure-video signal. This does away with the loss of image quality that is inherent in television use with a personal computer.

Bright image presentation with low distortion is ensured through the use of high-performance com-ponents, says USI. "Characters are clean and crisp as are graphics and .

and green monitors, the new colour monitor is burned-in for a full 100 hours and completely re-inspected prior to shipment. USI

extensive and stringent quality control programme. USI provides dealer and enduser support and the company says it maintains a strong over-the-

attributes the low failure rate to an

counter service. The new monitor retails for \$399, with volume discounts avail-

USI Computer Products (CW).

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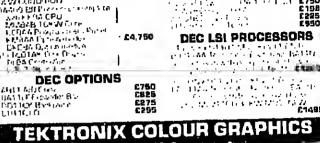
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opplicants for the Principal Lecture posis will have the industrial or commercial experience and knowledge to teach on en MSc Computing conversion course for Humanities and Social Science graduates.

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**PROGRAMMERS** DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING

The Computing Leboratery is leaking ter two systems pregentres to work with a smell group central with the davelopment of a distributed computing tervice. The main service computer is due to be replaced in 1998 and we want to take the opportunity at that that to provide the instworking infrastructure for the distribution of computing power as the way forward for the computing service.

Applicable should be provided to the computing service. Applicants should be graduates and printerably have some systems programming experience, particularly at networking protocols and technology.

Che of the posts is permanent and special spec

The second post is tenable for three years only. Appointment for this post will be at an appropriate point on the Range IA seel according to a see age, qualifications and exparience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar [F.P.]. The University, 6 Kensington Terce, Newcastia-upon-Tyne N61 7AU, with whom applications is copies, together with the sames and addresses of three referees, should be lodged not later thes 18th May 1839. Plesse quots reference CW.

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Applications era invited for two posts attached to on SERC-lunded research project to develop numerical integration sethods and techniques of graphical display for Beyedian Inference. The appointments will be on the 1A scale, 28,376-611,105, for expollations to having £8.376-£11,105, for epplicents having a PilD or addivision research experience, or on the 18 socia, £8.550-£8.065, for epplicants having a backelore degree, Appointments raws be taken up by let October.

The project will require a range of skills drawn from Statistics, Numerical Analysis, Programming and Computer Graphics, A 63600 beset, single ser, work station operating under UNIX and a high resolution colour graphics subsystem is dedicated to the project. Applications are therefore encouraged from enyman haying some combination of expertises and interest in these subjects/quipment.

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**DEC Financial Programmers** 

ta £12,000 Surrey If you have a minimum of 2 years experience of programming com-mercial epplications, preferably in BASIC + or BASIC + 2 on PDP11 under RSTS/E or VAX/ VMS, then here is an opportunity to develop your career with a successful commercial software nouse. Our client is involved in all espects of software production and installetion and currently requires several programmers.

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Herts./Berks. £9K-£13K We would be interested to hear from electronics engineers with experience of digital design and development techniques leading to volume production. Detailed familiarity with TTL circuits necessary, with CMOS component transportations desirable. ponent knowledge destrable. Some programming skill would be attractive. You will work closely with actiware developers.
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with prospects for advancement.
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Contact Terry Harvey.

Contact Terry Harvey.

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#### Micro **Development** £9K-£11K Cambs.

An important and growing appli-chilon area for micro based systema is in portable data capture machines. Our client is building a team of development staff who ara working on new products to thie area. (f you have a minimum of two years experience program-ming micros, or minis using assembler and a high level lan-guage and are copable of deelgn and epecification, please apply. **Contact Terry Harvey** 

#### Prime **Fortran**

£10K-£12K London Several openinga have arisen with this exceptionally successful company for people with 2-5 years comms, background. The duties are evenly distributed between design, development and sales support, so a good client manner is essential together with some Fortran expertise, preferably on Prima equipment. Other requirements are energy, enthualasm and determination.

#### Comms. S/W Design

to £12.000 Develop your career and your existing communications softwere ekills by Joining a company alreedy firmly established in this high growth sector of the com-puter industry. We are seeking software people with experience in developing 3270 compatible systems and as much experience as possible in X.25 and L.A.N. products. Experience in 'C' or PASCAL using M68000 and/or T19900 would be useful.

# Contact Terry Harvey.

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to £14,500 Surrey A well-known producer of micro computere and associated software wishes to recruit hardware design engineers with 5 years axperience in the design of 8088/8086, M68000 or word processing and personal computing equipment for high-volume pro-duction, together with an electronica degree or equivalent. Less experienced applicants may be considered for middle and junior positions with the same company.

# Italy

London base to £17,000 Candidates will need to have several years comms. software design and implementation experience to advise up to project leadar level on existing projects. The assignment calls for up to 18 months in Rome with a permanent beautiful property. nent base in London. Overseas expenses cover married accom-panied status if required. Excel-lent company and long term career prospects.
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Comms. S/W

#### Development Manager tn £15K + car Berks.

Ideal candidates will have mixed H/W end S/W experience gained tn product design and develop-meni. You will control a small, expanding team of programmers and engineers. Development sys-tems include Tektronix M.D.S. and PDP11 with UNIX. You will be expected to prove your tech-nical ability and demonstrate your management awareness. Short duration yielts to 11 S A ort duration vielts to U.S.A.

#### **Programmers Designers**

Contact Brian Coates.

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Development is done in language
'C' and PL/M-86. Candidates
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#### **Programmers** Minis/Micros

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This position calle for mixed technical and project leader talents to be combined with the manner for regular client contact. Candidates will need design ability in bit slice, Z80, 8086, M68000 or similar micros on communications terminals, or interfaces in local or wide area networks. You must be prepared regular European travel of ori durations. Contact Terry Harvey.

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Programmar/Analysts — APL — MABRA experience
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and

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(up to £11,800)

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Bloomsbury, one of the largest Health Authorities in the Country is selling up a new Computer Team for improved patient care in the field of Country Medicine. This is a new development, funded by the DHSS and is being specially set up to help solve the problems of sexually transmitted diseases resulting from modern day living. The positions will be based on two nationally famous leaching hospitals — The Middlesex Hospital and University

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The people being sought must have an interest in medical computing as well as having a sound data processing lockground. The appointments ofter the

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(NHS Scale 14) c. £11,000-1:. £13,000 inclusive

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position you are interested in. Closing date for computed applications: 18th May, 19th.

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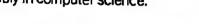
Culham Laboratory, near Oxford, the Atomic Energy Authority's centre for research into nuclear fusion, to join a small expanding group working on a variety of novel projects. Currently, these are in the areas of software tools, interprocess communications and graphics. Most of the work is real time on a range of minicomputers using a variety of languages and up-to-date software engineering techniques.

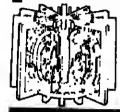
Designers and scientific programmers with a knowledge of at least one minicomputer system (preferably UNIC, RT-11, RSX, Primos or Nord Sintran) wishing to expand their experience of systems and undertake design and implementation work for challenging projects should apply to:

Mrs P Halliday, Personnel Department, Culham Laboratory, Abingdon, OXON, OX14 3DB. Telephone No: (0235) 21840 ext 4391.

Appointments will be as Higher Scientific Officer with salary in the range of £7,320-£9,765 according to age and experience.

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An excellent opportunity has arisen to join an expending computer department within a leading firm of stockbrokers. This position requires someone with the ability to sid and lielse with in-house users and to assist in the development of further computerisation of the company.

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COMPUTER AND OFFICE SYSTEMS

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For further information. and a discussion in the strictest confidence, please contact C. D. Stock, General Menager, IPS Group, Lloyds Avenue House, 6 Lloyde Avenue, London EC3N 3ES, telephone 01-481 8111,

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Group Finance Director
Kalon Ltd
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Through our subsidiary company, Robertson Research Engineering Services Limited, we have over the past few years astablished a leading position in geophysical borehole logging. This is the use of mobile computerized leboratories to record and evaluate formation properties found in exploration boreholes. We are now seeking to recruit a Graduate Computer Scientist to expand further our systems group and therefore facilitate the development of additional real time processing software both for use in the mobile units and at base. The ideal applicant will have a good degree in computer science and one or two years' experience in industry. A good knowledge of Pascel and Programming for Real Time Systems would be an adventage.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ASTON IN SIRMINGHAM Computer Centre - User Services Oroup

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would be a giventege.

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some time in general advisory doules.

Applicants abouted has an academic of the service of the

some time in general advisory doules.

Applicants should have an bonoura degree in Computer

Applicants should have an bonoura degree in Computer Science or related subject.

A good knowledge of FORTRAN and the ability to communicate with users is essectial for this post. Experience of using a large computer service, preferably ISM based, will be an advantage. Other relevant areas of knowledge are VM/CMS, MVS/IES, PASCAL, Networking, Graphics and Operating Systems.

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Since the late sixties our client has been offering consultancy, systems and software development services throughout the world and has achieved an exceedingly high reputation during this period. Over the past few years the demand for their main areas of expertise (namely, the mini and micro computer areas of defence, communications, information systems and real-time systems) has increased at an amazing rate. Accordingly, they urgently seek the very best software professionals available to sustain their prolific growth and excellent track record. Below are six of the opportunities available, but there are many more besides, ranging from Programmer to Principal Consultant levels...

#### Consultant -Videotex Specialist

A proven ebility in Videotex technology is essential end should ideally heve included project definition and proposal production for new work end close it is not included project definition and proposal production for new work end close it is not customers. Candidates must possess technical expertise in Videotex and those with backgrounds including telecomms, pecket switching and cetworking will be of particular interest — especially those from a previous consultancy (or a manufacturing) anvironment.

#### Senior/Principal Consultant -**Banking & Finance**

Netureliy, previous experience of either Benking or Financiel projects is highly desirable, but the essence of the work in this group is to produce high availability/high reliability systems. Accordingly, most of the systems are implemented on TANDEM hardware. Therefore, unless their banking/finance knowledge is particularly deep, candidetes really must have demonstrable TANDEM experience and an in-depth understanding of the communications an in-depth understanding of the commreieted aspects of these systems.

#### Software Engineer -**Software Technology**

The Softwere Technology Group tends to handle most of the company's private venture, research and development work. This includes compilers end operating systems (UNIX, Ada), softwere engineering tools & methods (MASCOT) and of course Expert' Systems. Obviously experience of SAGE would be viswed with the greatest of interest. Cendidetes must heve between three and eight years experience, preferably with a good knowledge of the VAX and, if possible, Ada.

#### Programmer --**Industrial & Defence**

Candidates must be fluent in Corel 66, Pascai or a similar block-structured lenguage and should have axperience of either resi-time defence applications or communications (message switching, networks, voice/data comms, etc).

For the young, but discerning careeriat who currently feels fattered by a large bureaucratic environment, this must represent a most ideal opportunity for exciting new work and swift career advencement.

#### Software Engineer -Communications

Throughout the world the communicatione business is both booming and bouyant and encompasses evarything from Satellite communications to micro-based Local Area Networks, Videotex to fibre-optics. Our client's interest in communications covers most of the spectrum, therefore any cetions covers most of the spectrum, therefore any releted experience will be considered very seriously indeed. Ideally, however, candidates will have had between two and eix years experience geined in either a military or commercial and industrial environment and be keen to deepen their knowledge end ewaraness of this continually expending area of the computer industry.

### Scientific Programmer

A unique opportunity currently exists for a person to take a leading role in a chellenging new project involving digital image processing. Candidates in the age range 25-29 should have a good mathemetics, engineering or science dogree and must have a minimum of four years experience in scientific software. Experience of digital image enhancement and/or feature detection, using FORTRAN or other high level languages on PDP-11/VAX or MC88000 is required. Enthusiasm, self motivetico and communication skills are essential.

# ... Further Opportunities

It is difficult to list each and every opportunity available because they tend to vary as pos are 'tailored' to compromise the company's requirements against the individual's skills and talents. Suffice to say, however, that a number of alternative positions do exist, so general applications would be viewed with extreme interest and considered very seriously indeed. The essential qualifications of all candidates may be summarised as follows:-

\* Educated to degree level.

\* Have at least two years real-time systems experience.

\* Be mobile, self motivated, communicative, self assured, etc. \* Either have the 'consultancy presence' or, at the more junior levels, actively want to work in a consultancy environment.

Without doubt a more challenging, demanding and exciting environment would be hard to find and the opportunities afforded difficult to surpass.

Contact David Wallder for more details and information.

Modus Consultants are in London every Tuesday & Thursday-come and meet us

Communications Programmer

The instruction of the Company Stage

SURREY

Our client is at the forefront of remote data communications technology. A communications programmor is required to be responsible for design thru to implomentation line luding coding end testing) of the X25 interface to the PSS public data service. He/sho will be well versed in assemblor ildosliy MACRO 11) and have a good undorstanding of communications.

This exciting role offers e high starting salary plus the opportunity to be involved in sales suggest settivities.

involved in sales support activities.

Sen. An/Prog.

READING

**REAL TIME** 

A Market Leeder in the design end manufacture of high quality data capture systems, aceks an additional senior analyst programmer.

The successfut candidate will have sound experience of real timo applications, including a saambler on DEC, INTEL or 280.

PASCAL would be adventageous.

He/she will have had previous supervisory experience, be capable of planning projects and scheduling manpower, and enjoy direct customs?

This will involve a wide variety of non-defence projects in a pleasant in-

ICL VME Specialist

British A a tellion of the real contract

BERKSHIRE

Leading international systems software company is currently developing a new range of software products for the ICL VME operating system.

Candidates should have a sound knowledge of the VME system, be familiar with SFL and have experience of languages such as COBOL or DASCAL

Thereform, the company offers a career position within an innovative software environment together with the opportunity to broaden your knowledge of software and hardware products.

BASIC Programmers BERKSHIRE

to £9K

A fast expanding and highly successful computer services company seeks to recruit programmers with between 1 and 8 years BASIC experience in a commercial environment.

You will be actively involved in developing commercial systems on a Carear progression in this stimulating environment is excellent with an early opportunity to move into design/team leading role.

Ref. ACIO

Sen. Programmer

ME29

N. HANTS

A specinist in the storage and distribution of temperature controlled products to national food multiples is emberking on an ambitious devolopment phase, including plans for DATA DICTIONARY, IDMS and networking of a later dete.

A senior programmer le required to augment their ME29 team using RANGE COBOL. A sound knowledge of MTS or TME/TP is

Benefits include good salary, pleasant environment, flexible hours, realistic career development and, of course, the opportunity to learn new

Programmer. RT11/CTS300

WEST LONDON

to £8,500

Our client, a multinational management service organization, with a turnovar of \$300,000,000 develops advanced systems for particular market sectors using a mixture of hardware (DEC, IBM) software and

An opportunity has arisen with their Travel and Leisure division for a Programmer to work as part of a team oo the development of Hotel

Programming experience under the RT11 or CT8300 operating system is essential.

The position offers the opportunity to broaden experience and progress into either e client contact role or a more senior software development

occurr cousins LTD, 27-29 Greymate Road, Res

**MVS JES2 OPERATORS** 

**BIRMINGHAM** 

t8 months: MVS JES2 experience is required to join this expending installation and a knowledge of JCt, would be a plus. Excellent prospects for the right applicants.

Ref. AM777/CW

NETWORK SUPPORT C. LONOON Minimum one year a sportence on a remote network to required to join this installation. Knowledge of OOS CICS VM-CMS, BSC Protect and modern equipment to essential, together with a sound data communications background. Good proepacts.

Ref. AM722/CW Contact Anna-Maria on 01-836 8411 regarding the above positions.

OPERATIONS CONTROLLER

A dedicated and hardworking supervisor is sought by our client to take total responsibility for the traminent installation of their IBM 4331. The successful applicant will be recruited for his/her thorough DOS/VSE VTAM expertise and shilling to trein and motivate a department of five. You must poseess over two years' proven supervisory skitle, be capable of undertaking systems generation and organising the computer room to a high standard.

Ref. KS986/CW

**DOS/VSE OPERATOR** 

CEB.2K + PERKS

Recruitment report to coincide with

May 18 Scotland Recruitment Report Phone: (01) 661 8080

Copy deadline is Monday, May

LAUNAPALIS SOUTLAND'83 Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, May 17-19, 1965.

This prestitione 4341 sits is keen to recruit a highly skilled DDS/VSE operator with approximately 16 months' experience. You will be joining an installation where there is movement into technical support or aystema programming. Two shift operations.

Ref. KS952/CW Contact Kay on 01-836 8411 regarding the above positions.

Our client requires a young enihusleelic operator, training on en IBM System 34 will be given to the successful applicant if necessery. Deya Ref. LR988/CW NETWORK CONTROLLER S.E. LONGON £9K
Young network controller to work in this repidity expending TOC centre.
International network, lots of user lis ison. Extended day shift.

Contact Lynns on 01-838 8411 regarding the above positions. Ref. LR978/CW

CONTRACTS

BOOK AND TO SEE THE SEE

Burmugha 4700 Operator — urgant O.G. AOS Operators — urgant OS/VS1/VM OPERATORS and SHIFT LEADERS — SAUDI ARABIA Contact Slobhan on 01-836 8411 regarding the above positions.

the first the same and the same



Rewarding opportunities in the Middle East.

\$20,000 plus car + comprehensive benefits. Single or married status.

"Progress within the Middle Essi le linked with the ebility to benetit from end control edvences in technology. However, lechnological development generally outpeces society's stillty to use () precilcelly, this being sepecially Irue within the computer end communicelione environment."

We ere e major Saudi - North American joint venture communications company totally committed to the office eutometion world within the Middle East. Besed on meny years of experience in the planning, design, engineering, installetion, cuetomer training end meintenence, we offer a total systeme integration service coupled with a computer service bureau for 'electronic correspondence' based on our in-house Tendem processors.





Already employing over 140 ersonnel within our headquerters in Al-Khobar weere seeking to expand this headcount considerably, with a view to opening new offices throughout Saudi end other Guit etetes. To this end we ere currently seeking to recruit two experienced Field Service/Cuelomer Engineere with the following ell ributes:

1) To edd addillonel englneening support to our Tandem Installellonwe ere seekinge person who has specific experience with Tendem hardwere. The Individuet would eleabe required to execule service activities on our renge of micro, mini, peopheral and data. communications equipment however apart from the Tandempre-requisite should also be data communications orientated

2) The second person would have a background in data communications with specific knowledge of statistical and divisional multi-plexing and would probably be currently omployed by an organisation involved in this held.

Both positions learny a base salary of around £20,000, company car, housing, single or married status and a host of other benetits including siz weeks holiday and paid R and R

Take the liret step in gaining the opportunity to join a technically demending but linencially rowarding environment by phoning our recruitment adviser Peul Pearce NOW on 021-643 8501 (office hours) or 05432-57483 (eves/wknde) -etternelively mall your c.v. to his Birmingham office. Selee People, Alpha Tower, Birmingham B1 1TT.

# Sales People 021.6438501

Offices in London, Croydon, Birmingham, Manchester, New York, Los Angeles



# Opportunities in **Customer Support**

Our client is a major computer service organisation backed by the resources of an international group of companies. From their base in the Northern Home Counties, they provide a wide range of services.

One area of specialisation is the provision of Turnkey packages to Quantity Surveyors in private practice, local authorities, contractors and consulting engineers. Due to the success of these products, our client is currently entering a growth phase and wishes to make the following

# Sales Support Consultants

Candidates, male or female, should have experience in one or more of the following areas: DEC PDP 11/23 using RT11, TSX+, and DBL. Application knowledge of Sales, Purchase, Nominal Ledgers and Word Processing.

The role is likely to be of particular interest to Support Programmers who wish to move into a customer support environment. The ability and desire to react to technical communication skills to deal confidently with users and prospective clients at all levels are essential.

Competitive salaries will be paid and a company car provided. In addition, benefits include 5 weeks' annual holiday, pension scheme, free life assurance and an excellent sports club. This is an ideal opportunity to step into a challenging, worthwhile and secure career.

Please write with full details. These will be forwarded direct to our client. List separately any companies to whom your application should not be sent. Ref. FY.1336.





### Hampshire To £13,000 + Car Allowance

Our client, a substantial intermediately group, is a fast-growing systems incress providing a comprehensive range of products and services to clients operating in the European manufacturing and

To support a programme of sustained growth a number of programmers are required in grades ranging from programmer to team leaders. Programmers work in mixed systems and programming teams with hardware dedicated to development.

Software is developed for the complete spectrum of Digital Equipment hardware including the VAX range, DECSYSTEM-10, DECSYSTEM-20 and PDP-11s.

Full training will be given where necessary and all new recruits will be given specific training in database. data dictionary and interactive programming techniques Applicants should have a minimum of one year's COBOL experience with significant career opportunities

available in programming for more experienced staff. Opportunities for career development, both in programming and systems, are excellent and are geared

to personal performance and commitment.

Salaries and benefits are almed at recruiting and retaining high quality staff. Relocation expenses will be paid where appropriate.

Please contact Brian Posties.



International Personnel Consultants 15 Clarence Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 48U Litting &taines (C/184) 59247. Telex: 8814148

# ORE INSPIRING OPPORTUNITIES .... ... in Johannesburg, South Africa

# Senior Analyst

To lead a new sophisticated CAD project in the Project Engineering/Architectural design area using Intergraph on DEC in an ICL mainframe environment. With total involvenent in final implementation, Candidates will require good technical analysis/database experience gained within e CAD environment. A relevant degree is desirable, together with the ability to control this area of ever increasing applications.

#### Senior Analyst **Geological Applications**

To develop generalised comprehensive data bank based geological epplications systems which in conjunction with existing geostatistical systems will provide versatile tools for Geoscientists. Fluency in FORTRAN, solid technical/ scientific systems experience and an understanding of geology, all backed by e relevant degree are required for this challenging new position.

# Senior Analyst Technical/Scientific

To take responsibility for several technical/scientific systems in the mining, geological and engineering areas. Preferably educated to Degree level, Candidates should possess a strong fluency in FORTRAN and have designed and implemented et least one major technical/ scientific system. Experience with ICL, database and graphics would be advantageous.

Our Client is a highly successful Company with an International reputation in the mining of precious metals and other minerals and is in a unique position to offer worthwhile career opportunities to suitably experienced personnel. A good salary and e wide range of benefits including bonus, non contributory pension and initial accommodation in furnished flets is offered. Full assistance with relocation and immigration requirements will be given.

Our advising consultants at SCR have full details of these positions and interested Candidates should call **Graham Utton** or **Martin Stainthorps** on **021-236 3781** or call 021-744 1862 between 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

UK interviews will be held at SCR offices in mid Mey.

SCR International...bringing the world within your reach

Specialist Computer Recruitment International Limited

The established British manufacturer of portable data capture terminals are moving to new, larger premises at Addlestone in Surrey. This expansion provides a unique career opportunity for three key individuals as follows:-

West London/West of England & Wales £llK Base. Target £18K Portable Deta Capture is a concept which requires flair and creetivity. We ere looking for these skills together with drive, enthusiasm and the will to succeed.

#### SYSTEMS

Software Programmer—to £10K

o DEVELOP/MAINTAIN Systems Software for the Terminal plus the Communications and Application Development System. years industrial BASIC/ASSEMBLER programming plus Communications software experience on MICROCOMPUTERS required (preferably CP/M based). Degree level qualification desirable.

#### HARDWARE

Service Engineer—to £10K

Responsible for in-house TEST/REPAIR of the Terminals, the cendidete should have the ability to accept increasing responsibility for Service and Q/A functions. Minimum 2 years practical MICROCOMPUTER Hardware experience required (preferably CMOS 4000 based). Knowledge of ASSEMBLER/MACHINE CODE advantageous. HNC/HND qualifications beneficial.

Telephone DCUC SNEDDON or JOHN WILLS on 01-486 5644, for an informed discussion.



# TOP JOBS FOR TOP PEOPLE Insight Marketing & Personnel Consultants

MANCHESTER—Austin House; Charlotte Street, Manchester I, Telephone; 061 236 7026 LONDON — 72-78 Marylebone High Street, London WIM 4AJ. Telephone: 01-486 5644

California-up to \$40,000 p.a.

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  - ACP/PARS or IPARS
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**Ring TODAY for more details** 

01-836 8411 (24 hrs)



# Go for a share of the profits-also **ANALYST PROGRAMMER**

With Philips Business Systems experience and the ability to communicate with ell levels of menegement, you can have a challenging and rewarding career with this steadly expanding company. You will need to be self-motivated as you will be designing and implementing commercial systems end evaluating new peckages, responsible directly to the DPM.

Interested applicants with other Business Systems experience will also be considered for this position. **Based in Hayes** Salary to £9.5K plus share

### **PROGRAMMERS**

Our client is aeeking embitious programmers to work on the development of new projects in en ONLINE environment. If you have between one and three years' experience using ICL Cobol (Ideelly ME29, TME or MTS) and are looking for a progressive career peth in e friendly atmosphere this could be the opportunity you have been seeking.

Based in Wembley

Salary c£8.5K plus share Benefits offered by the company include twice yearly profit sharing, six

weeks' annual leave, life insurance and free private patients plan. 01.903 9648 York House Empire Way

Wemblsy Middlesex HA9 0QQ

ms is a highly successful, private company with excellent trading record and a turnover last year of £70 million. Their computer department is young and dynamic, expanding to keep page

with the steady growth of all aspects of the

business, while still retaining a friendly atmos-

phere.

**SYSTEMS** 

SUPPORT

Ring or write to David Butcher, quoting ref. D307, now

SALARY NEG. CIRCA £11K.

Our Client is a prestigious Group Management Services Organisation supporting some 200 companies within the UK and Worldwide – based in South London their current computer facilities include: Twin IBM 4341, DOS/VSE, VM/CMS, CICS/DL1, VSAM, SNA (VTAM, NCP, 3 x 3705 ...), IBM System 34/38, IBM displaywriters, IBM personal computers ... The Company's policy is to be at the leading edge of new technology, and implement new releases of hardware and software as they become available.

The Technical Support Group comprises Software Support Manager and two Systems Programmers. The third and open position requires an individual to specialise in VSE (under VM). CICS and DL/1.

Depending upon your ability and experience to date, you may only need 12 months' experience of DOS/VSE systems programming with ASSEMBLER to apply. Additionally, prior exposure to CICS, DL/1 and VM will of course be to both your own and our Client's advantage, although comprehensive training will be provided as necessary.

Initial projects will include: In-depth investigation into CICS usage to enable tuning and performance monitoring; major system conversion to utilise DL/1; upgrading and support of around 20 other VSE products.

For further information or to arrange an initial interview please contact our Advising Consultant, Ian Goldsmid on 01-935 0671 during office hours, or 01-689 6367 some evenings and weekends, alternatively submit your Curriculum Vitae to the London address below.

Specialist Computer Recruitment Ltd

MICLANDS & INTERNATIONAL

Avenue Louise 327

# ationel House, 84 Deansgate,

#### HOLLAND Willemsparkweg 92. 1071 H.M. Amslerdam

# COMMERCIAL **PROGRAMMERS AND ANALYSTS**

£8K-£20K

One of the largest independently owned software houses in the U.K. is now looking to recruit highly proficient Cobol Programmers and Analysts for various locations throughout the south east.

You can expect to receive a higher starting salary than elsewhere and career progression second to none if you are prepared to work herd and give total commitment.

If you have two or more years' Cobol experience, ideally in the financial area, then contact us quoting Reference 6786.

# **SOFTWARE ENGINEERS**

In REAL TIME • PROCESS CONTROL • COMMUNICATIONS

To £18,000 London and South East

Our client, a major systems consultency pert of a Blue Chip group, is looking to recruit senior and junior Real Time, Process Control and Communications specialists to meet its current expansion needs.

With one of the leaders In scientific/technical consultancy, systems design and Implementation will be an Integral function of your role.

Ideally you will be a graduate with at least two years' related experience in a high or low level language (Fortran, Pascel, Coral, RTL2, Macro or Assembler) with potential to teke advantage of the long term career opportunities available. Reference 6787.



Lloyd Chapman **Associates** 

123, New Bond Street, London WIY 0HR 01-499 7761

# Do you have a Sales Pedigree?

# IF SO, JOIN THE THOROUGHBREDS AND EARN OVER £24K PER ANNUM

Unrivalled in virtually every category of comparison, this company offers users a complete range of Information Systems and slate-of-the-art software capabilities. To maintain their supremacy in

the U.K. we are assigned to recruit the following key sales personnel, all of whom will carn a 5 figure basic salary, substantial long term guarantees and company car or car allowance.

# Large Systems Sales

N.WEST, YORKS, N. & E. MIDLANDS

Living within a 50 mile radius of Leeds. you should have a 1st class record of achievement over at least 3 years in the sale of large, sophisticated mini computer systems to either end users or OEM's.

# **Major Accounts MANCHESTER**

The prime requirement is to have opened and developed Major Accounts negotiating at the highest levels. A positive and mature outlook combined with a high degree of self-motivation is essential.

# **OEM Sales**

#### SCOTLAND & MIDLANDS

If you have a minimum of 2 years with a major manufacturer, do not ignore these opportunities. You will join an established and successful sales force which has the benefit of full local support both in Scotland and the Midlands.

To be a part of this winning team, ACT NOW!-for a completely confidential discussion.

Telephone 061 236 1157 during business hours, or Evenings until 9p.m. and weekends, telephone JEFF WALTON on 061 962 0002 or ROY TORRES on 0422-823153

Manchester House, 86 Princess Street, Manchester M16NG.Tel: 061-236 1157.

# Senior Project Managers

(with a difference\*)

# Thames Valley

Our client is a small systems house with a phenomenal growth rate - it will achieve over £1M of turnover in its first year of operation, with profits to match - and future business in the pipeline to maintain this momentum. The directors to whom the successful candidates will report are very experienced computer technicians with skills covering both hardware and software who can demonstrate entrepreneurial abilities of

These appointments offer quite exceptional opportunities, not only to work in a very stimulating environment but also to influence in a meaningful way the future development of the company.

.Candidates must have a successful track record in completing multiple projects (utilising up to 10 analysts/programmers) on time and to budget which, preferably should include experience involving contract personnel.

Substantial familiarity with TP software is very

c.£15K+car

important, including DME, TME or CICS or ZILOG systems. COBOL is the most heavily utilised language.

Preference will be given to people with well developed interpersonal skills because it will be necessary to represent the company at all levels of client management. Knowledge of the Local Authority or Health Care market would be advantageous in the short term but there is potential to make use of a wide range of application experience.

Remuneration is negotiable but unlikely to be a limiting factor and the intention is to recognise and reward good performance with an above average package. Working conditions are good and plans are already in hand to move to larger premises as the need arises.

> \*To find out about the difference call Bruce Crammond on O1-631 4184 or send a detailed C.V. to: A&A Consultants (Holding) Ltd., County House, 10 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DF.

#### THE Middle East! Sun, sand and camels, the ancient lands of the spice trade. These are the traditional images, but recently the picture havelranged.

Sur and sand are now joined by oil and monetary wealth. The greatest inducement (for many the only one for leading these green pastures for the pink deserts is personal enrichment). Money! We all seem to need more of it but for every reward there is a task to be dong and care is needed in

There is advice to those who wish to carn the high rewards the Middle East basto older and there are warnings for those with a Macawberish outlook on the world. There is also a flayour of another liefstyle. both exuberant and esonic. with its non-matricianimal collore, that of the expatriate modern-day tenzit-

lablee man. The people are polite and generally coorieous, though they lack our technological backgound, which is often mistakenly taken for stupid-

ny and backwardness. Fortunately a knowledge of Arabic is not necessary since most Arabs speak

The law is strict and penallies for more serious crimes often public. The most common offence iniong expairiates in Saudi Arabia resulting in a jail sentence is the selling of alcohol (not its consumption). I or e sense of proportion, bear in mind that the sentences are lower than those imposed in the US in the days of

Generally, there are classes of people for punishment purposes with lexa severe penalties going to the Westerner and the most

# Sand, sun, camels and money await you in the Middle East

But is it worth it? Declan Smith points out the pros and cons of Arabian life

It is imperative that you have personal transport. Car prices vary from one conntry to the next. In Dubai the prices are similar to the UK whereas in Sandi Arabia they are half that price. Your professional status is assured in the private sector and in Saudi Arabia dus is particularly important.

Certain categories of expatriates are not allowed to take their families and senssions are underway to forbid these categories from owning or drieng private Hausport. The working week is gen-

crally between 4tt and 48 hours, six days a week with Fridays off, Contracts can be accompanied (with your lumily, but lower salaries) or unaccompanied (usually shorter periods). Leave is variable but guidelines are

Unaccompanied persome between 12 and 16 weeks in country get 1.25 days off for every week worked. Accompanied

month in every vix. Salaries are between £14K and £24K ennditions, with both ex-tremes available for the same job. A good average for hardware or software personnel would be 119K.

Many contracts start lower with yearly increments and accompanied status to follow. These can ultinanely be very worthwhile. A rule of thumb worth remembering is that after a one year contract it can take three mouths to get your next one, so reduce your salary accordingly!

A common mistake is to avsume you will meet a linancial target in a certain time. Add an extra year for every three. Inflation becomes noticeable after the first years but mure insidious is the growth in your

expectations. More expensive clothes and holidays becomes a part of your lifestyle. Your sociel

> employed in that function. thought about most carefully when dealing with companies from other parts f the world (particularly US) where you will be con-sidered Third Country

Nationala (TCNa).

The TCN contract requirea explanation. This

This type of contract is defi-

contracts generally ofter one outgoings will become greater and your desire for the "bigger and better" will

certainly grow.
Since your happiness and job satisfaction depend on the contract then let us look at the major types. The first is a contract with a UK hased company. A contract of this type miss be the safest of all. Most dn not offer further employment on your. return to the UK but you are in a strong position and they will try to retain you if

The longer term prospects are good, promotion quite often going to those ou-site, plus yearly incretirents in salary more than off-setting the lower starting

Conditions depend on the size of the company but they all understand the UK norm both in creature comforts and the personnel depart-Importantly, if you have contracted to fulfil a particu-

thet e blind eye can be en lar function both sides unintolerable atrein. Personnel derstand the terms of referere sub-divided aa to ence and you will be nationality, with differing conditions applying to each These last two should be (according to the home country's company sten-dards). Americans classify the British and the Third World as the same (except for pey) whereas European

in partnership with an expatriate company. Therefore the first nation is the Arab, the second is its partner and

almost exclusively for the partner which provides its

You will be considered as

companies treat all Western-

tor. This mainly consists of agencies for the major comthe third are all contract puter and peripheral manufacturers. This is arguably This is the worst possible the best of all worlds. Here simution to be in although ynu have the greatest perthe most profitable for cersonal freedom and the greattain categories, ie electronics est responsibility engineers and microproces-Accommodation ranges sur oriented software personnel. You are employed by an Arab concern (notably the oil ministries) but work

from villas twith the major bankst to flats found by yourself. Most computer companies now here agents in the Arabian peninsular. Salaries are negotiable own permanent staff to and are always in package control the operation and terms. Employees are often and are always in package also supply most of the expected to act as the local expert on all software/hardware the agency sells, plus be a part-time selesman.

quick injection of money.

part of a labour pool and not as a professional part of the Your experience will organisation. Perhaps the broaden considerably with greatest problem exists good prospecta for promo-tion. Your fortunes are tied when action henefiting the partner (seller) is taken at to those of the agency so facilities are often non-consider the product line existent or public not prithe expense of your em-plnyer (cuatomer). It is then cerefully. This is a boom vete. Delays of up to three area since protectionism months from the first apforcea companies to buy proach are to be expected. through local agents.

Social mobility is greatest

Before you leave home eheck: The contract is in

A familior Arabic sight. But would you tire of camels, sond and sun? term applies to people employed by an Areb national ployed by an Areb national ros skinned who need a self-determination and are changing xyz' kind should be ignored.

**ARE YOU THIRSTY** 

for you.

The social security im are often very good thous written euples are difficult to obtain. For example in Suadi Arabia, where women are discouraged from working, the law initial to maternity leave and nursing facilities to be provided by the employer. It is well worth your while obtaining a cupy and reading there a copy and reading them carefully.

ployer is in the private sec-Often companies will a temp) to deny you they rights by disclaimer in you contract. These can be ingored since all contracts an bound by local laws. These laws are a two-edged axe, no unions are allowed nor any strikes. Collective complaints can be construed as industrial espionage with imprisonment until trial!

You find out about these jobs from agencies advenisend often they really do have positions that are never directly advertised.

The olyger companies advertise directly. Unfortungtely most agencies have to personal experience of the aree and rely heavily e what they have been told by

here end a truly cosmopolitan lifestyle is enjoyed. The organisationa are amaller tax position. There are and friendlicr but do not expect the aquash courts and facilities of the larger companies oormally found to the previous eategories.

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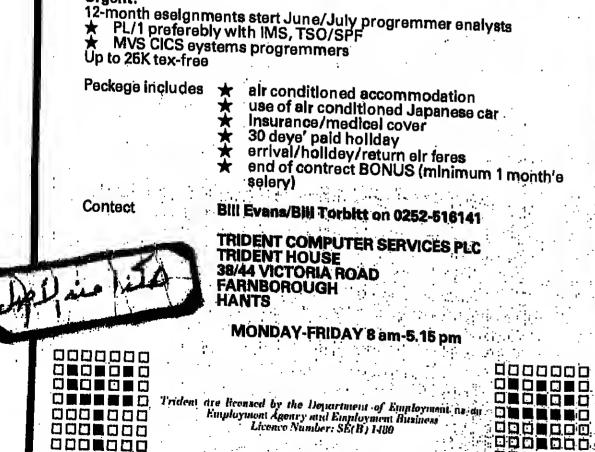
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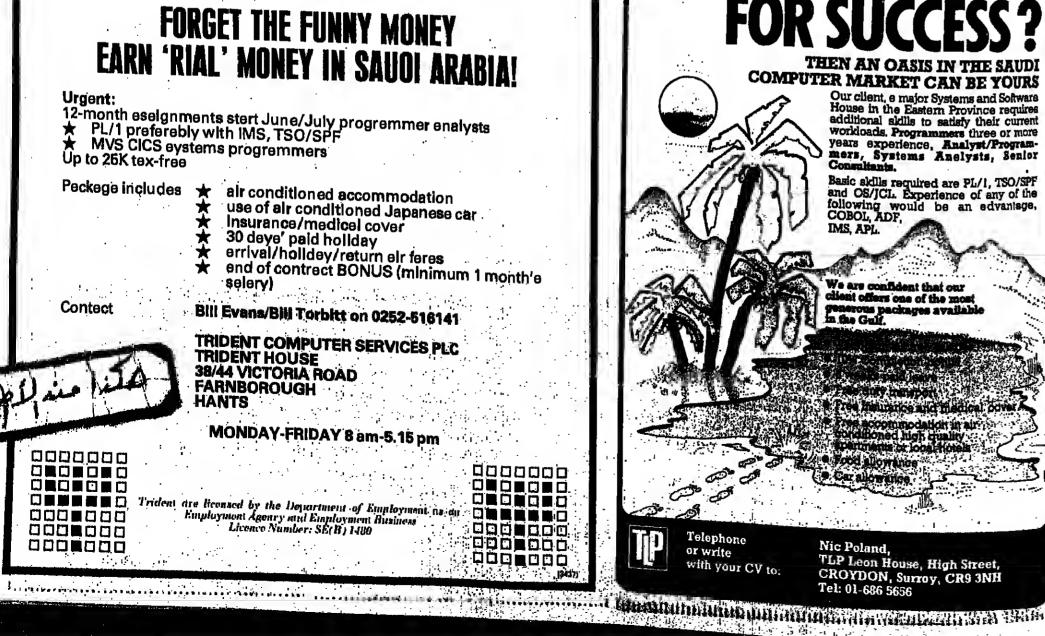
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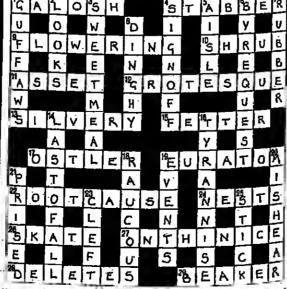
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